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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 14, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GEORGE HOLDING to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

OUR SACRED DUTY IS TO GOVERN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, in Luke 12:48, Jesus said:

From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

The Congress and the President have been entrusted with much, namely, the responsibility to govern this country. The American people rightly expect us, regardless of party affiliation, to come together, especially during times of

crisis, and find ways to get things done. They are understandably fed up with the current dysfunction, and I am, too.

Each side thinks it's winning, but, in reality, the country and the American people are losing. Senate Chaplain Barry Black says there is a level of insanity involved in the current government shutdown. Asked what it would take to end the current impasse, the former Navy chaplain said, "It's going to take humility." Wise words. Proverbs 16:18 says:

Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

There is too much pride poisoning this debate. The American people should be the winner, not one party or the other, not the administration or the Congress. Shortsighted political victories aimed at capturing the latest headline in a 24-hour news cycle will not stand the test of time, nor will they be viewed well through the lens of history, especially if, on our watch, the trust that must exist between elected officials and the electorate is frayed beyond repair.

For those of us who think ObamaCare is a disaster—and that is a growing number of people in our country—its future will not be decided by the shutting or opening of the government. In fact, the current failings of the system, including the widespread glitches plaguing the Web site, are not getting the news coverage they should because the story has become the shutdown. The public debate surrounding ObamaCare, which will undoubtedly be at the forefront in heading into the midterm elections, will play second fiddle until the government is once again operational.

It also bears mentioning that, while important, ObamaCare must be placed in a larger context of the exploding national debt and deficit and unsustainable spending and entitlement programs set against the back-

drop of a public discourse bereft of civility. Only through enacting reforms based on the bipartisan Simpson-Bowles recommendations will we ever solve the drivers of our deficits. We have put these tough but important reforms off for far too long.

To my colleagues in the Congress and to President Obama who think they are "winning" at this particular moment, we would do well to remember the words of Napoleon Bonaparte in speaking of the changing nature of public opinion. Napoleon said:

The crowd which follows me with adulation would run with the same eagerness were I marching to the guillotine.

I return again to the sentiments of Scripture: We have been given a great trust, and it is demanded of us to come together to solve these problems. It is time to show some humility. It is time to govern. Let's get the government back open, ensure we don't default on our debt, and then commit ourselves to curbing unsustainable entitlement spending.

DAY NUMBER 14 OF THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, day No. 14.

Mr. Speaker, today is the 14th day of the government shutdown, and we are 1 day closer to defaulting on our debt. Mr. Speaker, we've never not paid our bills as Americans—as Americans, we always pay on time—but we are 1 day closer to a manufactured crisis. We've got to stop this.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time for leadership. Enough with the games, enough with the name-calling, and enough with the finger-pointing. We have to come together as Democrats and Republicans and put the country first.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Mr. Speaker, you are the Speaker of this House. This House has both Democrats and Republicans, and you need to lead us. It's that time. I will make a quick suggestion. Here is what you can do in three easy steps:

Step No. 1, open the government;

Step No. 2, let us pay our bills; and

Step No. 3, let's negotiate. Let's come together as Democrats and Republicans and negotiate a real budget that starts to address our debt. Let's make sure we don't leave our children and grandchildren a mountain of debt. Let's do what our parents and grandparents always did, which was to leave the country better off for the next generation.

That is what it takes—leadership. Mr. Speaker, now is the time for that leadership. You are the Speaker of this House, and we need you to lead us as Democrats and Republicans. America is watching, and we need to put the people's interests first.

THE DEBT CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, the debt limit exists for a simple reason: to assure that public debt isn't recklessly piled up without Congress periodically acknowledging it and addressing the spending patterns that are causing it. If a debt limit increase is supposed to be automatic, as the President suggests, then there is really no purpose to it.

A new dimension has now appeared in this discussion. Unlike every one of his predecessors, this President has vowed that unless Congress unconditionally raises the debt limit, the United States will default on its sovereign debt.

But a failure to raise the debt limit would not, by itself, cause the Nation to default. The Government Accountability Office has consistently held that the Treasury Secretary has "the authority to choose the order in which to pay obligations of the United States" to protect the Nation's credit. Such authority is inherent in the 1789 act that established the Treasury Department and entrusted it with "the management of the revenue" and the "support of the public credit." The affirmative duty of the Treasury Department to do so is underscored by the 14th Amendment.

Our revenues are more than 10 times our debt payments, so paying the debt first to prevent a sovereign default is well within the financial ability of the Federal Government—and indeed, it is a fiscal imperative.

Now, earlier this year, the House passed H.R. 807, which not only explicitly requires the payment of the national debt in the case of an impasse over the debt limit, but even allows the President to exceed the debt limit, itself, in order to protect the Nation's credit. That measure languishes in the

Senate under the threat of a Presidential veto.

Protecting the sovereign credit by prioritizing payments would mean delaying paying other bills. That is also untenable, unthinkable, and something much to be avoided, but it would not imperil the Nation's sovereign credit. Only the President can do that.

The House leadership met with the President last week and offered to extend the debt limit until November 22 with no strings attached. The President refused. Senate Republicans offered a 6-month extension, but the Senate Democratic leader refused.

What the President threatens to do would be catastrophic and unprecedented. The full faith and credit of the United States is what gives markets the confidence to loan money to the Federal Government. Even a threat of default—exactly the kind the President is now making—could have dire consequences to a Nation that now owes more than its entire economy produces in a year.

So where do we go from here?

Republicans have miscalculated on two key assumptions: first, that the Democrats would negotiate the issues that divide our country—they have not; and second, that Democrats would seek to minimize the suffering caused by the impasse—they have not.

Given the ruthless and vindictive way the shutdown has been handled, I now believe that this President would willfully act to destroy the full faith and credit of the United States unless the Congress acquiesces to all of his demands—at least as long as he sees political advantage in doing so.

If the Republicans acquiesce, the immediate crisis will quickly vanish, credit markets will calm, and public life will return to other matters. But a fundamental element of our Constitution will have been destroyed: the power of the purse will have shifted from the representatives of the people to the Executive. The executive bureaucracies will be freed to churn out ever more outlandish regulations with no effective congressional review or check through the purse. A perilous era will have begun in which the President sets spending levels and vetoes any bill falling short of his demands. Whenever a deadline approaches, one House can simply refuse to negotiate with the other until Congress is faced with a Hobson's choice of a shutdown or a default. The Nation's spending will again dangerously accelerate, the deficit will rapidly widen, and the economic prosperity of the Nation will continue to slowly bleed away.

This impasse may have started as a dispute over a collapsing health program, but it has now taken on the dimensions of a constitutional crisis. Yesterday, in Washington, a group of America's veterans rose up to take a stand against these unconstitutional usurpations. I believe the salvation of our Nation now ultimately depends on the American people joining them.

HONORING 12 MEMBERS OF THE 1ST SQUAD, 2ND PLATOON, HOTEL COMPANY OF THE 26TH MARINE REGIMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VELA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 12 members of the 1st Squad, 2nd Platoon, Hotel Company of the 26th Marine Regiment. These brave men made an important contribution to the war effort in Vietnam, but their efforts could not be honored at the time without exposing ongoing intelligence operations. Like so many of our Nation's heroes, they have not received the recognition they deserve, and I am here today to share with my colleagues in Congress and our entire Nation the details of an incident that helped change the way the Vietnam war was fought.

On May 29, 1967, at the end of Operation Hickory and the beginning of Operation Prairie IV, the 1st Squad, under Sergeant Thomas Gonzalez, was on a reconnaissance patrol when they recovered a spent Russian SA-2 surface-to-air missile inside the demilitarized zone which divided North and South Vietnam. While Russian involvement in the Vietnam war was widely suspected, discovery of the SA-2 was a major find, and the command and control mechanism of the missile was transported to Washington, D.C., for analysis.

Due to the ongoing cold war and heightened political sensitivities regarding Russian involvement in the war, public disclosure of the incident was withheld.

While the unit was never fully recognized for its accomplishment, the intelligence it collected had a direct impact on combat. Prior to discovery of the missile, U.S. aviators flying B-52 bombers to attack Vietnam struggled as enemy forces became more proficient at targeting and shooting American aircraft. This forced Americans to limit their missions to areas further south; and, as the North Vietnamese Army continued to move their surface-to-air missile launch sites south into the DMZ, B-52 aircraft were forced to fly even further south, limiting the effectiveness of their missions to provide support to troops engaged in ground combat.

As a result of the recovery of the SA-2 missile, B-52 bomber crews had a better understanding of the threat, and they used the intelligence collected by the 1st Squad to alter their tactics. Changing the strategy of the B-52 bomb strikes allowed the aircraft to provide better combat support to marines and other ground troops and ultimately saved countless lives.

Forty-six years later, it is time for our Nation to recognize these American heroes. Today, let us honor these men: Sergeant Thomas Gonzalez, Corporal Gerald D. Eggers, Private First Class Ronald W. Blaine, Private First Class Charles L. Melton, Private First

Class Albino Martinez, Private First Class Anthony Astuccio, Private First Class Richard P. Light, Private First Class Michael McCombs, Private First Class Hector L. R. Rodriguez, Private First Class Lloyd Parker, Private First Class Thomas J. Lehner, and Navy Corpsman Mel Overmyer.

These young men, like so many of their generation, answered our Nation's call to service. They risked their lives in defense of their comrades in arms and our Nation. We owe them a great debt of gratitude for all that they have done, and I stand here before Congress in recognition of their accomplishment and their sacrifice.

THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE MUST DISABUSE ITSELF OF THE NAME "REDSKINS"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I submit to my colleagues and some 181 million sports fans all over America who love the game of football just as much as I do, having played football for 4 years in high school, again and again, Mr. Speaker, this issue will not go away; and with all due respect, Mr. Speaker, I call upon the 32 football club owners of the National Football League and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell to get rid of this derogatory word or racial slur, "redskin," which currently describes the Washington football franchise.

Mr. Speaker, the National Football League cannot just casually pass the responsibility to Mr. Dan Snyder, owner of the Washington team. The Washington football franchise is about a \$1.3 billion business, rated third in the NFL, but the NFL is also a beneficiary and, I'm sure, gets a fair percentage of the proceeds from television broadcasts and concessions for selling clothing and sports souvenirs by these 32 club owners.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank President Barack Obama for weighing in on this issue just 2 weeks ago, and I hope NFL Commissioner Goodell will seriously pursue this matter. If Commissioner Goodell feels that if we are offending one person that we should listen, then listen to the leaders of the National Congress of American Indians, the oldest and the largest Native American organization, which represents the vast majority of some 5.2 million Native American Indians today. And when I say "majority," Mr. Speaker, I'm talking about 2.6 million Native Americans who do have an issue to pull with the NFL using this racial and derogatory slur's name.

I also want to thank Mr. Ray Halbritter, leader of the Oneida Indian Nation, for taking the initiative to get this to the American people so that they will better understand and appreciate why this word is so offensive to the Native American community.

Again, Mr. Speaker, it is time for the NFL commissioner, Roger Goodell, and the NFL to do the right thing. Change the name "Redskins." It is a racial slur and a derogatory term for the American Indians.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of wisdom, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Prior to the Great Compromise, Benjamin Franklin addressed the Constitutional Convention:

We indeed seem to feel our own want of political wisdom since we have been running about in search of it. In this situation of this assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, have we now forgotten our powerful friend?

Lord, You are the powerful friend referred to by Franklin, and we turn again to You to ask that Your wisdom might break through the political dark of these days.

Bless the Members of the people's House and all of Congress with the insight and foresight to construct a future of security in our Nation's politics, economy, and society. May they, as You, be especially mindful of those who are poor and without power.

May all that is done today be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

STAND DOWN ON INDIVIDUAL MANDATE

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker:

Consumers will be able to go online. They will be able to get a determination of what tax subsidies they are eligible for; they will be able to see premium net of subsidy; and they will be able to sign up.

Those were the words spoken by the head of the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight 3 weeks ago at a committee hearing of Energy and Commerce. I had asked for a yes or no answer to the question: Will the exchanges be ready on October 1? You heard his answer.

In The New York Times this weekend, a very insightful article: "From the Start, Signs of Trouble at the Health Portal." The exchanges have been called excruciatingly embarrassing by no less than the President's press secretary for his first term. He went on to say:

I hope some people are fired, those people who were supposed to be able to make this work.

The blame-shifting between contractors and agency officials is just beginning. Further quoting from the article in The New York Times this weekend:

"These are not glitches," said an insurance executive who has participated in many conference calls on the Federal exchange.

The extent of the problems is pretty enormous. At the end of our calls, people say, "It is awful, just awful."

But here is the deal: everyone is required to sign up for this enormously embarrassing glitch that has been foisted upon us by the executive branch. It is time for us to stand down on the individual mandate.

END THE NIGHTMARE

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, the worst-kept secret in Washington, D.C., is there is a majority in the House of Representatives to reopen the government today, to reach that grand compromise that Father Conroy spoke about a few minutes ago.

Over 30 House Republicans have said that they would join Democrats to pass a clean CR, which the President has said he would sign on the spot. It has already cleared the Senate, and we could end the damage that is being inflicted on this country every passing day.

Day 14 is where we are today. Our National Guard, our veterans, Meals on Wheels—the list goes on and on—the National Institutes of Health, they are being crippled in this shutdown; and the power is here in this Chamber to end it by signing a discharge petition which was filed on Saturday morning.

If the Speaker won't bring the bill to the floor, then the Members should do

it. We are elected to represent the people of our district, not to represent the leaders of our caucus.

End the shutdown. Sign the discharge petition. End the nightmare that this country is going through.

TIME FOR BIPARTISAN SOLUTIONS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, in 1984, then-Senator JOE BIDEN had to make a choice about whether to support a Federal debt limit increase. He said:

I must express my protest against continually increasing the debt without taking positive steps to slow its growth.

Senator BIDEN voted not to raise the debt ceiling.

Today, my philosophy on raising the debt ceiling is very similar to Vice President BIDEN's—we can't keep upping our credit limit without taking steps to get our future debt under control.

Fourteen days into this Federal Government shutdown and mere days away from exhausting government's \$16.7 trillion credit limit, the time for bipartisan solutions is now.

The United States should always pay its bills, but the President and Members of Congress are responsible to take steps to reduce those bills for the future. Both parties need to be committed to this responsible reality.

PRESIDENT FAILS TO ADDRESS ISSUES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on January 14 of this year, the President spoke at a press conference, saying:

I think, if you look at the history, getting votes for the debt ceiling is always difficult, and budgets in this town are always difficult.

The Federal Government has been shut down for 2 weeks. The President of the United States has a job, and it is to govern. Because of his lack of leadership, American families are experiencing smaller paychecks, limited or no access to government services, and tremendous uncertainty surrounding their futures.

Although I am glad the President did finally engage in partial negotiations with House Republicans, I find it very disappointing that it took 10 days to do so, especially seeing as he believed our current challenges to be so "difficult."

Our country is headed down a path of insolvency, destroying jobs. Over the coming days, it is my hope the President will take his responsibilities of negotiation seriously and work with House Republicans to reduce spending and reopen the government's doors.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 14, 2013.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 14, 2013 at 1:25 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 812.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1700

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) at 5 p.m.

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION, AND INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 80) making continuing appropriations for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Education, and the Indian Health Service for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes, will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) has 10½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) has 9½ minutes remaining.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Idaho.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), a valued member of our subcommittee and an advocate for Indian issues.

Mr. CALVERT. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, let's be clear—everyone in this body wants to end this government shutdown. We are all aware of the significant impacts the shutdown is having around the country; and I am pleased that, today, both sides have finally come to the table, and hopefully we will reach a compromise here in the

next day or so. Today, we are here to consider a solution that aims to ease the urgent and substantial impacts to Indian Country.

House Joint Resolution 80, the American Indian and Alaska Native Health, Education, and Safety Act, provides immediate funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education, and Indian Health Services. As a member of the House Appropriations Interior and the Environment Subcommittee, I am well aware that Indian Country was already experiencing significant challenges before the shutdown as it adjusted to reduced spending levels. Now, with the Federal Government shutdown, Native American tribes across the Nation are facing even more uncertainty. These tribes are now being confronted with different decisions about which services they can continue to provide without government resources. Just a few examples: tribal programs for home health care for the elderly and disabled, bus service for rural areas, and infrastructure projects that were suspended indefinitely. I believe we must take action and reopen these critical government operations throughout Indian Country.

I am thankful that my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee and the House Republican leadership share my belief. Specifically, I want to thank my good friend from Idaho, MIKE SIMPSON, for bringing this bill to the floor and for his terrific leadership as chairman of House Appropriations Interior and the Environment Subcommittee.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important bill on behalf of all Americans in Indian Country. Let's pass this bill and reach an agreement to get our entire government back to work for the American people.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon, PETER DEFAZIO, the ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. DEFAZIO. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, this irresponsible, unnecessary, politically motivated government shutdown is unacceptable for all Americans, but it is particularly offensive to those in Indian Country.

The government's trust obligation to the tribes is not a discretionary act; it is a fiduciary responsibility. To assume that money associated with that fiduciary responsibility can be bartered or used as a political football is more than insulting.

It is another example here of tabloid legislating, ripping issues from the headlines and trying to legislate based on negative public reaction to just some part of the Republican government shutdown. It is kind of like a game of Whac-A-Mole, where an issue pops up and the far right pretends to care suddenly—Gee, we didn't know this would happen if we shut down the government—and they draft a continuing resolution to cover it—or their posteriors.

Now, where was all of this concern for the tribes when sequestration kicked in? Where is the compassion for the poverty faced by our first Americans every day, not just when it is politically expedient? Where has the compassion been to address the high rates of unemployment, educational challenges, access to resources, challenges tribal people face every day, challenges that have only been made worse by the Republican sequester?

This is so cynical. Not only does the temporary measure for tribes inadequately fund the few programs it identifies, picks, and chooses, but it neglects other critical programs inside and outside the Department of the Interior.

What about the Office of the Special Trustee? We haven't done so well as trustees of the moneys of the Indian nations recently. We need the Office of the Special Trustee. Oh, it is closed.

What about the Bureau of Reclamation office that disburses settlements for Indian water rights? Closed.

How about the Native American Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program? Closed.

Tribal nutrition programs? Closed.

Even if this bill passed and became law, those would all still be closed. I guess their compassion only goes so far. There are many other things missing from this bill. I could go on and on.

Already, sequestration has disproportionately impacted Indian Country. We don't need to rub salt in the wound with this continuing resolution that provides only one-third of the funding for these nations.

The irresponsible tactics need to cease. We need to open up our government to the first Americans and all Americans. It is simple.

We offered unanimous consent requests last Saturday before the Republicans adjourned in a huff and went off for a couple of days while the government was shut down. Any one of those acceded to could have brought a vote on a 6-week continuation of government at the Republican levels of funding with sequestration. That is a concession on the part of Democrats. It is your budget, those lower numbers, the Ryan budget. You could have done that. You wouldn't do it. You changed the rules of the House so we couldn't bring it up as a privileged resolution, and then you pretend to care.

Come on, guys. You can do better than that.

Mr. SIMPSON. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

So here we are, Mr. Speaker. We are 14 days into the government shutdown, the shutdown that has cost this country money, has created enormous anxiety on the part of the Federal workforce, the contract workforce, the entire country.

In fact, there was a meeting of all of the leaders of the world over in Asia, and we weren't there because of the

government shutdown. The Chinese, of course, took advantage of it. Both the President and the Prime Minister were over at this meeting of world leaders, trying to suggest to them that it is time that the world became "de-Americanized"—I think that was their term—because we can't get our act together. We can't even fund our own government. We can't even decide whether or not we are going to pay off our debts on time.

And all of this, apparently, we are told, Mr. Speaker, was an idea that came from the Ted Cruz Tea Party wing of the Republican majority to shut down the government until they could have their way on what they call "ObamaCare." Even though President Obama ran on the Affordable Care Act, which is its proper name, and was elected with 5 million more votes, still, they wanted to stop it, to gut it, to gut its principal provisions.

So here we are, 14 days into a government shutdown, which is really an embarrassment to the entire institution, but it certainly ought to be to the House majority. It is ironic with this particular bill because there are 579,000 uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives, and they would get coverage under the Affordable Care Act. Nine out of 10 of them are likely to qualify for financial assistance either through tax credits or by purchasing coverage in the marketplace where you would get cost-sharing reductions, eliminate their out-of-pocket costs, or through an expansion of Medicaid if their States choose to do that. So the vast majority of them—undoubtedly, hundreds of thousands—would be better off if we were not only to not have shut down the government, but certainly by our making available to them the Affordable Care Act. So how ironic that here we are with a mini bill, suggesting that we will fund a small share of the Interior Department to take care of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Obviously, we should be taking care of Native Americans—it should be our highest priority—and I know it has been for the chairman of the Interior and the Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, my good friend from Idaho, and our colleagues on that subcommittee, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. COLE, a number of them. We have all agreed it ought to be a priority, but we also have a bill that needs to get passed. We have other agencies that need to be funded.

If we were to continue in this manner, we would get the Interior Department funded by Halloween. That is not the way to do business. In fact, this bill doesn't fund Native American education programs and the Department of Education.

It doesn't fund the law enforcement programs at the Department of Justice that carry out the Violence Against Women Act, which was a key component. Thanks to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), the Violence Against Women Act that we passed

makes sure that Native American women are protected.

It doesn't fund Native American social service programs at the Department of Health and Human Services. They don't get the child care and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families that they would otherwise get.

It doesn't fund Native American housing programs at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Almost 100 percent of HUD employees are furloughed.

It doesn't fund the Native American employment and training programs at the Department of Labor, the Native American environmental programs at the Environmental Protection Agency.

It doesn't fund the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, which oversees the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education.

It doesn't fund the Special Trustee for American Indians, which administers \$3.7 million in tribal funds and more than \$700 million in individual Indian accounts.

It doesn't fund the Office of Navajo-Hopi Relocation, which administers the relocation settlement activities that arose from land disputes between the Navajo and Hopi tribes.

It doesn't fund the Institute of American Indian Arts or the Native American water rights activities. It doesn't do what we need to do, which is to fund the Interior appropriations bill.

So I have to ask the majority, since this bill only funds three agencies which represent 0.7 percent of the domestic discretionary budget, what are we going to do with the other 99 percent of the domestic discretionary budget? What about our other Federal obligations to Native Americans? What about their housing and their childcare services and their legal protections? This bill doesn't take care of that. It still leaves 50,000 Interior Department employees still furloughed.

Even if this bill were to be enacted—which we all know it won't until the government opens—there is no money for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management for new offshore oil drilling permits.

There is no money for the Bureau of Land Management, which processes lease sales and permits for onshore oil and gas and coal and other mineral permits. They run the wild horse and burro adoption program. They award the timber sales. No money for that.

No money for the Fish & Wildlife Service so they can manage visitors to our national refuges. No money for hunting or fishing permits. What about the Forest Service?

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say this was well-intended, but I know that it is an attempted Band-Aid to hide the real problem, which is the government is shut down. We need to open it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

□ 1715

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, 521 years ago, an explorer named Christopher Columbus sailed west from Europe in an attempt to find a new route to the East Indies. Instead, he landed in the Bahamas, and as the story goes, he named the local inhabitants "Indians."

I note the irony that today has been designated Columbus Day, and here we are debating a bill to reopen key parts of the government so the United States can honor the treaty obligations our forefathers made to the American Indians—the first Americans.

The bill before us today is a good thing because it gives us an opportunity to continue to highlight the poverty and other hardships that exist today in Indian Country as a result of the long, complicated, and difficult history of relations between the United States Government and more than 500 other sovereign nations that were here long before we were.

So while we recognize and honor Columbus for his impact on our own Nation's history, let us also recognize and honor the first Americans for their proud history and the sacrifices they made, and continue to make, for this great Nation.

That is why I would encourage everybody to vote for this bill. Frankly, I hope this bill isn't necessary. I hope that we can find a resolution to the differences that exist between Republicans and Democrats and that we can reopen all the government, as Mr. MORAN just stated is necessary. I agree with him fully. We need to get the government open again, and we need to address the issue of the debt ceiling.

It is heartening to know that leadership in the Senate, and hopefully in the House and the White House, is having some quality time together and that maybe we can come to a resolution before more dire things happen and we can get this government open, but I don't know that that is going to happen.

In the absence of not knowing that that is going to happen, wouldn't it be wise to have at least some of these bills that fund some key elements of our government ready to go in the Senate so that we can open some areas that I think have bipartisan agreement that need to be funded and need to continue?

I said in my opening statement Saturday that Indian issues have been bipartisan on our committee. They have been supported by both Republicans and Democrats whether it was under Mr. Dicks' leadership when he was chairman, Mr. MORAN's leadership when he was chairman, or under my leadership. It has been a bipartisan issue to try to meet our treaty obligations and the moral responsibilities we have to the first Americans—American Indians.

I want people in Indian Country to know that regardless of the vote on this resolution, whether people vote for it or against it, that bipartisanship will continue. We will continue to work

together to try to make sure we address these critical needs in our Nation and our treaty and moral obligations we have.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 371, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of House Joint Resolution 80 is postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1820

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) at 6 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION, AND INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of House Joint Resolution 80 will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman opposed to the joint resolution?

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. I am opposed to it in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mrs. Kirkpatrick moves to recommit the joint resolution H.J. Res. 80 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That upon passage of this joint resolution by the House of Representatives, the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 59) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes, as amended by the Senate on

September 27, 2013, shall be considered to have been taken from the Speaker's table and the House shall be considered to have (1) receded from its amendment; and (2) concurred in the Senate amendment.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve a point of order on the gentlewoman's motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes in support of her motion.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the tribal leaders in my district join me in calling for a vote on a clean funding bill to restart our government.

Arizona's District One has 12 Native American tribes. These families are suffering, and our economy is taking a direct hit as a result of this irresponsible, unnecessary shutdown.

House leaders have wasted precious time in offering nothing but a daily trickle of piecemeal bills that are going nowhere. These partisan games and this lack of urgency show a reckless disregard for the people, communities, and economies hurt by this shutdown.

Today, as House leadership puts forth yet another piecemeal bill that will go nowhere, I would like to share some comments from my district's tribal leaders. These are in their own words.

Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly said:

The current piecemeal approach House Republicans are using to fragment tribal communities from the rest of the country is insulting. Tribal communities, like the majority of Americans, want a comprehensive resolution.

Peterson Zah, the former Navajo Nation chairman and their first president said:

Tribal issues should not be used as political props in this shutdown. Our kids, families, and elders are all part of the large community, and we all suffer from a shutdown. We need the House to vote on a clean funding bill to reopen the entire government.

On the White Mountain Apache Nation, where I grew up, tribal chairman Ronnie Lupe said:

Head Start and Impact Aid are vitally important to the tribes, but we also need furloughed workers from BIA, Interior, and all other agencies allowed back on the job. Our tribal members need their paychecks, our small businesses need their customers, and our veterans need their benefits without any lapses.

And from the Hopi Tribe, Vice Chairman Herman Honanie said:

Piecemeal bills are empty gestures that have no chance of passing both Chambers and being signed into law. We need real action to reopen the entire government, or we will continue to lose important resources like those from the Violence Against Women Act that help protect women and families.

Mr. Speaker, if House leadership were genuinely concerned about our Native American tribes, then I suggest they listen to the tribes and allow a vote to reopen the government.

Congress should stop picking winners and losers and stop playing games that only prolong this shutdown.

House leadership should stop this shutdown right now. They should stop this shutdown tonight. Let's vote on a clean funding bill to restart our government and protect our economy.

I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I make a point of order that the instructions contained in the motion violate clause 7 of rule XVI, which requires that an amendment be germane to the bill under consideration.

As the Chair most recently ruled on October 11, 2013, the instructions contain a special order of business within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Rules, and, therefore, the amendment is not germane to the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, I insist on my point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does any Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I wish to be heard on the point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized on the point of order.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, doesn't the bill before us fund the Federal Government? My motion to recommit would open the Federal Government entirely so that all our needs can be met.

Why are we only providing funding for Native Americans through the Interior Department? What about education and law enforcement programs for Native Americans? Are they somewhat less important?

Can the Chair explain why it is not germane to keep all the Federal Government open instead of just a tiny slice?

Why are the Republicans in favor of closing down the Federal Government and denying taxpayers the benefits they have already paid for? This makes absolutely no sense to people who have to work hard every day to make a living.

Mr. Speaker, if you rule this motion out of order, does that mean we will not have a chance to keep the entire Federal Government open today? That we will not have a chance to vote on the Senate continuing resolution?

Can the Chair please explain why we can't keep the entire Federal Government open today? Can the Chair please explain why we can't keep the entire Federal Government open tonight?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, may I speak on the point of order?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized on the point of order.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, on the question of the point of order—and I would like to have an explanation about this—why are these rules being interpreted in such a way as to prevent the United States Government from operating? What is the purpose of this rule? Where was it conceived? And why is it constantly being put forward as a way of stopping the Federal Government from acting?

Mr. Speaker, there is a world of hurt out there. All across this Nation people want government to work; they want the parks open; they want the National Indian Health Service operating; they want to make sure that Head Start is up and operating; that the medical services are available; that Homeland Security is functioning.

Mr. Speaker, what is the point of the point of order, other than to stop the Federal Government from working?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is prepared to rule.

The gentleman from Idaho makes a point of order that the instructions proposed in the motion to recommit offered by the gentlewoman from Arizona are not germane.

The joint resolution extends funding relating to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Education, and the Indian Health Service. The instructions in the motion propose an order of business of the House.

As the Chair most recently ruled on October 11, 2013, a motion to recommit proposing an order of business of the House is not germane to a measure providing for the appropriation of funds because such motion addresses a matter within the jurisdiction of a committee not represented in the underlying measure.

Therefore, the instructions propose a non-germane amendment. The point of order is sustained.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I appeal the ruling of the Chair.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is, Shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the House?

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to lay the appeal on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to table will be followed by a 5-minute vote on passage of the joint resolution, if arising without further proceedings in recommitment.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 216, nays 180, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 547]

YEAS—216

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Aderholt | Griffith (VA) | Poe (TX) |
| Amash | Grimm | Pompeo |
| Amodei | Guthrie | Posey |
| Bachus | Hall | Price (GA) |
| Barletta | Harper | Radel |
| Barr | Harris | Reed |
| Barton | Hartzler | Reichert |
| Benishek | Hastings (WA) | Renacci |
| Bentivolio | Heck (NV) | Ribble |
| Bilirakis | Hensarling | Rice (SC) |
| Bishop (UT) | Holding | Rigell |
| Black | Hudson | Roby |
| Blackburn | Huelskamp | Roe (TN) |
| Boustany | Huizenga (MI) | Rogers (AL) |
| Brady (TX) | Hultgren | Rogers (KY) |
| Bridenstine | Hunter | Rogers (MI) |
| Brooks (AL) | Hurt | Rohrabacher |
| Brooks (IN) | Issa | Rokita |
| Broun (GA) | Jenkins | Rooney |
| Buchanan | Johnson (OH) | Ros-Lehtinen |
| Burgess | Johnson, Sam | Roskam |
| Calvert | Jones | Ross |
| Camp | Jordan | Rothfus |
| Campbell | Joyce | Royce |
| Cantor | Kelly (PA) | Runyan |
| Capito | King (IA) | Ryan (WI) |
| Carter | King (NY) | Salmon |
| Cassidy | Kingston | Sanford |
| Chabot | Kinzinger (IL) | Scalise |
| Chaffetz | Klaine | Schock |
| Coble | Labrador | Schweikert |
| Coffman | LaMalfa | Scott, Austin |
| Cole | Lamborn | Sensenbrenner |
| Collins (GA) | Lance | Sessions |
| Collins (NY) | Lankford | Shimkus |
| Conaway | Latham | Shuster |
| Cook | Latta | Simpson |
| Cotton | LoBiondo | Smith (MO) |
| Cramer | Long | Smith (NE) |
| Crawford | Lucas | Smith (NJ) |
| Crenshaw | Luetkemeyer | Smith (TX) |
| Daines | Marino | Southerland |
| Davis, Rodney | Massie | Stewart |
| Denham | McCarthy (CA) | Stivers |
| Dent | McCaul | Stockman |
| DeSantis | McClintock | Stutzman |
| DesJarlais | McHenry | Terry |
| Duffy | McKeon | Thompson (PA) |
| Duncan (SC) | McKinley | Thornberry |
| Duncan (TN) | McMorris | Tiberti |
| Ellmers | Rodgers | Tipton |
| Farenthold | Meadows | Turner |
| Fincher | Meehan | Upton |
| Fitzpatrick | Messer | Wagner |
| Fleischmann | Mica | Walberg |
| Fleming | Miller (FL) | Walden |
| Flores | Miller (MI) | Walorski |
| Fortenberry | Miller, Gary | Weber (TX) |
| Fox | Mullin | Webster (FL) |
| Franks (AZ) | Mulvaney | Wenstrup |
| Frelinghuysen | Murphy (PA) | Whitfield |
| Gardner | Neugebauer | Williams |
| Garrett | Nugent | Wilson (SC) |
| Gibbs | Nunes | Wittman |
| Gibson | Nunnelee | Wolf |
| Gingrey (GA) | Olson | Womack |
| Gohmert | Palazzo | Woodall |
| Goodlatte | Paulsen | Yoder |
| Gowdy | Pearce | Yoho |
| Granger | Perry | Young (AK) |
| Graves (GA) | Petri | Young (IN) |
| Graves (MO) | Pittenger | |
| Griffin (AR) | Pitts | |

NAYS—180

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Andrews | Cartwright | Delaney |
| Barber | Castor (FL) | DeLauro |
| Barrow (GA) | Castro (TX) | DeBene |
| Bass | Chu | Deutch |
| Beatty | Cicilline | Dingell |
| Becerra | Clarke | Doggett |
| Bera (CA) | Cleaver | Doyle |
| Bishop (GA) | Clyburn | Duckworth |
| Bishop (NY) | Cohen | Edwards |
| Blumenauer | Connolly | Ellison |
| Bonamici | Conyers | Engel |
| Braley (IA) | Cooper | Enyart |
| Brown (FL) | Costa | Eshoo |
| Brownley (CA) | Courtney | Esty |
| Bustos | Crowley | Farr |
| Butterfield | Cuellar | Foster |
| Capps | Cummings | Frankel (FL) |
| Capuano | Davis (CA) | Fudge |
| Cárdenas | Davis, Danny | Gallego |
| Carney | DeFazio | Garamendi |
| Carson (IN) | DeGette | Garcia |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Grayson | Luján, Ben Ray | Ryan (OH) | Brooks (IN) | Huelskamp | Posey | Kennedy | Moore | Scott, David |
| Green, Al | (NM) | Sánchez, Linda | Broun (GA) | Huizenga (MI) | Price (GA) | Kildee | Nadler | Serrano |
| Grijalva | Lynch | T. | Buchanan | Hultgren | Radel | Kilmer | Napolitano | Sewell (AL) |
| Hahn | Maffei | Sarbanes | Burgess | Hunter | Rahall | Kind | Nolan | Shea-Porter |
| Hanabusa | Maloney, | Schakowsky | Bustos | Hurt | Reed | Kirkpatrick | O'Rourke | Sherman |
| Hastings (FL) | Carolyn | Schiff | Calvert | Issa | Reichert | Langevin | Owens | Sires |
| Heck (WA) | Maloney, Sean | Schneider | Camp | Jenkins | Renacci | Larsen (WA) | Pallone | Slaughter |
| Higgins | Matheson | Schrader | Campbell | Johnson (OH) | Ribble | Larson (CT) | Pascrell | Smith (WA) |
| Himes | Matsui | Schwartz | Cantor | Johnson, Sam | Rice (SC) | Lee (CA) | Payne | Speier |
| Hinojosa | McCollum | Scott (VA) | Capito | Jones | Rigell | Levin | Pelosi | Swalwell (CA) |
| Holt | McDermott | Scott, David | Carter | Jordan | Roby | Lewis | Perlmutter | Takano |
| Honda | McGovern | Serrano | Cassidy | Joyce | Roe (TN) | Lofgren | Peterson | Thompson (CA) |
| Horsford | McNerney | Sewell (AL) | Chabot | Kelly (PA) | Rogers (AL) | Lowenthal | Pingree (ME) | Thompson (MS) |
| Hoyer | Meeks | Shea-Porter | Chaffetz | King (IA) | Rogers (KY) | Lowey | Pocan | Tierney |
| Huffman | Michaud | Sherman | Coble | King (NY) | Rogers (MI) | Lujan Grisham | Polis | Titus |
| Israel | Miller, George | Sinema | Coffman | Kingston | Rohrabacher | (NM) | Price (NC) | Tonko |
| Jackson Lee | Moore | Sires | Cole | Kinzing (IL) | Rokita | Lujan, Ben Ray | Quigley | Tsongas |
| Jeffries | Murphy (FL) | Slaughter | Collins (GA) | Kline | Rooney | (NM) | Rangel | Van Hollen |
| Johnson (GA) | Nadler | Smith (WA) | Collins (NY) | Labrador | Ros-Lehtinen | Maffei | Roybal-Allard | Vargas |
| Johnson, E. B. | Napolitano | Speier | Conaway | LaMalfa | Roskam | Maloney, | Ruppersberger | Veasey |
| Kaptur | Nolan | Swalwell (CA) | Cook | Lamborn | Ross | Carolyn | Ryan (OH) | Vela |
| Keating | O'Rourke | Takano | Cotton | Lance | Rothfus | Matsui | Sánchez, Linda | Visclosky |
| Kelly (IL) | Owens | Thompson (CA) | Cramer | Lankford | Royce | McCollum | T. | Waters |
| Kennedy | Pallone | Thompson (MS) | Crawford | Latham | Ruiz | McDermott | Sarbanes | Watt |
| Kildee | Pascrell | Tierney | Crenshaw | Latta | Runyan | McGovern | Schakowsky | Welch |
| Kilmer | Payne | Titus | Daines | Lipinski | Ryan (WI) | McNerney | Schiff | Wilson (FL) |
| Kind | Pelosi | Tonko | Davis, Rodney | LoBiondo | Salmon | Meeks | Schrader | |
| Kirkpatrick | Perlmutter | Tsongas | DelBene | Loebsack | Sanford | Michaud | Schwartz | |
| Langevin | Peters (CA) | Van Hollen | Lenham | Long | Scalise | Miller, George | Scott (VA) | |
| Larsen (WA) | Peters (MI) | Vargas | Dent | Lucas | Schneider | | | |
| Larson (CT) | Peterson | Veasey | DeSantis | Luetkemeyer | Schock | | | |
| Lee (CA) | Pingree (ME) | Vela | DesJarlais | Lynch | Schweikert | Bachmann | Gutiérrez | Pastor (AZ) |
| Levin | Pocan | Visclosky | Duffy | Maloney, Sean | Scott, Austin | Brady (PA) | Hanna | Richmond |
| Lewis | Polis | Walz | Duncan (SC) | Marino | Sensenbrenner | Bucshon | Herrera Beutler | Rush |
| Lipinski | Price (NC) | Waters | Ellmers | Massie | Sessions | Clay | Kuster | Sánchez, Loretta |
| Loebback | Quigley | Watt | Farenthold | Matheson | Shimkus | Culberson | Lummis | Tipton |
| Lofgren | Rahall | Waxman | Fincher | McCarthy (CA) | Shuster | Diaz-Balart | Marchant | Valadao |
| Lowenthal | Rangel | Welch | Fitzpatrick | McCaul | Simpson | Fattah | McCarthy (NY) | Velázquez |
| Lowey | Roybal-Allard | Wilson (FL) | Fleischmann | McClintock | Sinema | Forbes | McIntyre | Walberg |
| Lujan Grisham | Ruiz | | Fleming | McHenry | Smith (MO) | Gabbard | Meng | Wasserman |
| (NM) | Ruppersberger | | Flores | McKeon | Smith (NE) | Gerlach | Moran | Schultz |
| | | | Fortenberry | McKinley | Smith (NJ) | Gosar | Neal | Westmoreland |
| | | | Foster | McMorris | Smith (TX) | Graves (MO) | Negrete McLeod | Yarmuth |
| | | | Fox | Rodgers | Southerland | Green, Gene | Noem | Young (FL) |
| | | | Granger | Meadows | Stewart | | | |
| | | | Graves (GA) | Meehan | Stivers | | | |
| | | | Griffin (AR) | Messer | Stockman | | | |
| | | | Griffith (VA) | Mica | Stutzman | | | |
| | | | Grimm | Miller (FL) | Terry | | | |
| | | | Guthrie | Miller (MI) | Thompson (PA) | | | |
| | | | Hall | Miller, Gary | Thornberry | | | |
| | | | Harper | Mullin | Tiberi | | | |
| | | | Harris | Mulvaney | Turner | | | |
| | | | Hartzler | Murphy (FL) | Upton | | | |
| | | | Hastings (WA) | Murphy (PA) | Wagner | | | |
| | | | Heck (NV) | Neugebauer | Walden | | | |
| | | | Hensarling | Nugent | Walorski | | | |
| | | | Holding | Nunes | Weber (TX) | | | |
| | | | Hudson | Nunnelee | Webster (FL) | | | |
| | | | | Olson | Wenstrup | | | |
| | | | | Palazzo | Whitfield | | | |
| | | | | Paulsen | Williams | | | |
| | | | | Pearce | Wilson (SC) | | | |
| | | | | Perry | Wittman | | | |
| | | | | Peters (CA) | Wolf | | | |
| | | | | Peters (MI) | Womack | | | |
| | | | | Petri | Woodall | | | |
| | | | | Pittenger | Yoder | | | |
| | | | | Pitts | Yoho | | | |
| | | | | Poe (TX) | Young (AK) | | | |
| | | | | Pompeo | Young (IN) | | | |

NOT VOTING—35

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Bachmann | Gutiérrez | Noem |
| Brady (PA) | Hanna | Pastor (AZ) |
| Bucshon | Herrera Beutler | Richmond |
| Clay | Kuster | Rush |
| Culberson | Lummis | Sánchez, Loretta |
| Diaz-Balart | Marchant | Valadao |
| Fattah | McCarthy (NY) | Velázquez |
| Forbes | McIntyre | Wasserman |
| Gabbard | Meng | Schultz |
| Gerlach | Moran | Westmoreland |
| Gosar | Neal | Yarmuth |
| Green, Gene | Negrete McLeod | Young (FL) |

□ 1854

Messrs. BUTTERFIELD, RUPPERSBERGER, and CONYERS changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. DUFFY changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to table was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the joint resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 233, noes 160, not voting 38, as follows:

[Roll No. 548]

AYES—233

| | | |
|----------|-------------|-------------|
| Aderholt | Barrow (GA) | Black |
| Amash | Barton | Blackburn |
| Amodel | Benishek | Boustany |
| Bachus | Bentivolio | Brady (TX) |
| Barber | Bera (CA) | Braley (IA) |
| Barletta | Bilirakis | Bridenstine |
| Barr | Bishop (UT) | Brooks (AL) |

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| Andrews | Conyers | Frankel (FL) |
| Bass | Cooper | Fudge |
| Beatty | Costa | Garamendi |
| Becerra | Courtney | Grayson |
| Bishop (GA) | Crowley | Green, Al |
| Bishop (NY) | Cuellar | Grijalva |
| Blumenauer | Cummings | Hahn |
| Bonamici | Davis (CA) | Hanabusa |
| Brown (FL) | Davis, Danny | Hastings (FL) |
| Brownley (CA) | DeFazio | Heck (WA) |
| Butterfield | DeGette | Higgins |
| Capps | Delaney | Himes |
| Capuano | DeLauro | Hinojosa |
| Cárdenas | Deutch | Holt |
| Carney | Dingell | Honda |
| Carson (IN) | Doggett | Horsford |
| Cartwright | Doyle | Hoyer |
| Castor (FL) | Duckworth | Huffman |
| Castro (TX) | Duncan (TN) | Israel |
| Chu | Edwards | Jackson Lee |
| Cicilline | Ellison | Jeffries |
| Clarke | Engel | Johnson (GA) |
| Cleaver | Enyart | Johnson, E. B. |
| Clyburn | Eshoo | Kaptur |
| Cohen | Esty | Keating |
| Connolly | Farr | Kelly (IL) |

NOES—160

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Conyers | Frankel (FL) |
| Cooper | Fudge |
| Costa | Garamendi |
| Courtney | Grayson |
| Crowley | Green, Al |
| Cuellar | Grijalva |
| Cummings | Hahn |
| Davis (CA) | Hanabusa |
| Davis, Danny | Hastings (FL) |
| DeFazio | Heck (WA) |
| DeGette | Higgins |
| Delaney | Himes |
| DeLauro | Hinojosa |
| Deutch | Holt |
| Dingell | Honda |
| Doggett | Horsford |
| Doyle | Hoyer |
| Duckworth | Huffman |
| Duncan (TN) | Israel |
| Edwards | Jackson Lee |
| Ellison | Jeffries |
| Engel | Johnson (GA) |
| Enyart | Johnson, E. B. |
| Eshoo | Kaptur |
| Esty | Keating |
| Farr | Kelly (IL) |

NOT VOTING—38

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Bachmann | Gutiérrez | Pastor (AZ) |
| Brady (PA) | Hanna | Richmond |
| Bucshon | Herrera Beutler | Rush |
| Clay | Kuster | Sánchez, Loretta |
| Culberson | Lummis | Tipton |
| Diaz-Balart | Marchant | Valadao |
| Fattah | McCarthy (NY) | Velázquez |
| Forbes | McIntyre | Walberg |
| Gabbard | Meng | Wasserman |
| Gerlach | Moran | Schultz |
| Gosar | Neal | Westmoreland |
| Graves (MO) | Negrete McLeod | Yarmuth |
| Green, Gene | Noem | Young (FL) |

□ 1903

Ms. WATERS changed her vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the joint resolution was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for the following votes on October 14, 2013. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall vote 547, and “nay” rollcall vote 548. on passage of H.J. Res. 80, the American Indian and Alaska Native, Health, Education, and Safety Act.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “Making continuing appropriations for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Education, and the Indian Health Service for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes, although we prefer—and would support—a comprehensive, clean continuing resolution to end the government shutdown.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 6 of rule XVI, the amendment is not debatable.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 161, noes 228, not voting 42, as follows:

[Roll No. 549]

AYES—161

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Andrews | Frankel (FL) | Nadler |
| Barber | Fudge | Napolitano |
| Barrow (GA) | Gallego | O'Rourke |
| Bass | Garamendi | Owens |
| Beatty | Garcia | Pallone |
| Becerra | Grayson | Payne |
| Bera (CA) | Green, Al | Pelosi |
| Bishop (GA) | Hahn | Peters (CA) |
| Bishop (NY) | Hanabusa | Peters (MI) |
| Blumenauer | Hastings (FL) | Peterson |
| Bonamici | Heck (WA) | Pingree (ME) |
| Braley (IA) | Higgins | Pocan |
| Brooks (AL) | Himes | Polis |
| Brown (FL) | Hinojosa | Price (NC) |
| Brownley (CA) | Holt | Quigley |
| Bustos | Honda | Rahall |
| Butterfield | Horsford | Rangel |
| Cárdenas | Hoyer | Roybal-Allard |
| Carney | Huffman | Ruiz |
| Carson (IN) | Israel | Ruppersberger |
| Cartwright | Jackson Lee | Sánchez, Linda |
| Castor (FL) | Jeffries | T. |
| Castro (TX) | Johnson, E. B. | Sarbanes |
| Chu | Keating | Schakowsky |
| Ciulline | Kelly (IL) | Schiff |
| Clarke | Kennedy | Schneider |
| Cleaver | Kildee | Schwartz |
| Clyburn | Kilmer | Scott (VA) |
| Cohen | Kind | Scott, David |
| Connolly | Kirkpatrick | Serrano |
| Conyers | Langevin | Sewell (AL) |
| Cooper | Lee (CA) | Shea-Porter |
| Costa | Levin | Sherman |
| Courtney | Lewis | Sinema |
| Crowley | Lipinski | Smith (WA) |
| Cuellar | Loeb | Speier |
| Cummings | Lofgren | Swalwell (CA) |
| Davis (CA) | Lowenthal | Takano |
| Davis, Danny | Lujan Grisham | Thompson (CA) |
| DeGette | (NM) | Thompson (MS) |
| Delaney | Lujan, Ben Ray | Tierney |
| DeLauro | (NM) | Titus |
| DeBene | Maffei | Tonko |
| Deutch | Maloney, | Tsongas |
| Dingell | Carolyn | Van Hollen |
| Doggett | Maloney, Sean | Vargas |
| Doyle | Matheson | Veasey |
| Edwards | Matsui | Vela |
| Ellison | McDermott | Visclosky |
| Engel | McGovern | Walz |
| Enyart | McNerney | Waters |
| Eshoo | Meeks | Watt |
| Esty | Michaud | Waxman |
| Farr | Moore | Welch |
| Foster | Murphy (FL) | Wilson (FL) |

NOES—228

| | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Aderholt | Collins (NY) | Gohmert |
| Amash | Conaway | Goodlatte |
| Amodi | Cook | Gowdy |
| Bachus | Cotton | Granger |
| Barletta | Cramer | Graves (GA) |
| Barr | Crawford | Graves (MO) |
| Barton | Crenshaw | Griffin (AR) |
| Benishek | Daines | Griffith (VA) |
| Bentivolio | Davis, Rodney | Grimm |
| Bilirakis | DeFazio | Guthrie |
| Bishop (UT) | Denham | Hall |
| Black | Dent | Harper |
| Blackburn | DeSantis | Harris |
| Boustany | DesJarlais | Hartzler |
| Brady (TX) | Duckworth | Hastings (WA) |
| Bridenstine | Duffy | Heck (NV) |
| Brooks (IN) | Duncan (SC) | Hensarling |
| Buchanan | Duncan (TN) | Holding |
| Burgess | Ellmers | Hudson |
| Calvert | Farenthold | Huelskamp |
| Camp | Fincher | Huizenga (MI) |
| Campbell | Fitzpatrick | Hultgren |
| Cantor | Fleischmann | Hunter |
| Capito | Fleming | Hurt |
| Capps | Flores | Issa |
| Capuano | Fortenberry | Jenkins |
| Carter | Fox | Johnson (GA) |
| Cassidy | Franks (AZ) | Johnson (OH) |
| Chabot | Frelinghuysen | Johnson, Sam |
| Chaffetz | Gardner | Jones |
| Coble | Garrett | Jordan |
| Coffman | Gibbs | Joyce |
| Cole | Gibson | Kaptur |
| Collins (GA) | Gingrey (GA) | Kelly (PA) |

| | | |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| King (IA) | Nunes | Scott, Austin |
| King (NY) | Nunnelee | Sensenbrenner |
| Kingston | Olson | Sessions |
| Kinzinger (IL) | Palazzo | Shimkus |
| Kline | Pascarell | Shuster |
| Labrador | Paulsen | Simpson |
| LaMalfa | Pearce | Slaughter |
| Lamborn | Perlmutter | Smith (MO) |
| Lance | Perry | Smith (NE) |
| Lankford | Petri | Smith (NJ) |
| Larsen (WA) | Pittenger | Smith (TX) |
| Latham | Pitts | Southerland |
| Latta | Poe (TX) | Stewart |
| LoBiondo | Pompeo | Stivers |
| Long | Posey | Stockman |
| Lowe | Price (GA) | Stutzman |
| Lucas | Radel | Terry |
| Luetkemeyer | Reed | Thompson (PA) |
| Marino | Reichert | Thornberry |
| Massie | Renacci | Tiberi |
| McCarthy (CA) | Ribble | Tipton |
| McCaul | Rigell | Turner |
| McClintock | Roby | Upton |
| McCollum | Roe (TN) | Wagner |
| McHenry | Rogers (AL) | Walberg |
| McKeon | Rogers (KY) | Walden |
| McKinley | Rogers (MI) | Walorski |
| McMorris | Rohrabacher | Weber (TX) |
| Rodgers | Rokita | Webster (FL) |
| Meadows | Rooney | Wenstrup |
| Meehan | Ros-Lehtinen | Whitfield |
| Messer | Roskam | Williams |
| Mica | Ross | Wilson (SC) |
| Miller (FL) | Rothfus | Wittman |
| Miller (MI) | Royce | Wolf |
| Miller, Gary | Runyan | Womack |
| Miller, George | Ryan (OH) | Woodall |
| Mullin | Ryan (WI) | Yoder |
| Mulvaney | Salmon | Yoho |
| Murphy (PA) | Sanford | Young (AK) |
| Neugebauer | Scalise | Young (IN) |
| Nolan | Schock | |
| Nugent | Schweikert | |

NOT VOTING—42

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Bachmann | Hanna | Rice (SC) |
| Brady (PA) | Herrera Beutler | Richmond |
| Broun (GA) | Kuster | Rush |
| Bucshon | Larson (CT) | Sanchez, Loretta |
| Clay | Lummis | Schrader |
| Culberson | Lynch | Sires |
| Diaz-Balart | Marchant | Valadao |
| Fattah | McCarthy (NY) | Velázquez |
| Forbes | McIntyre | Wasserman |
| Gabbard | Meng | Schultz |
| Gerlach | Moran | Westmoreland |
| Gosar | Neal | Yarmuth |
| Green, Gene | Negrete McLeod | Young (FL) |
| Grijalva | Noem | |
| Gutiérrez | Pastor (AZ) | |

□ 1920

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION EXTENSION ACT OF 2013

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3190) to provide for the continued performance of the functions of the United States Parole Commission, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3190

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “United States Parole Commission Extension Act of 2013”.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT OF SENTENCING REFORM ACT OF 1984.

For purposes of section 235(b) of the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 (18 U.S.C. 3551 note; Public Law 98-473; 98 Stat. 2032), as such section relates to chapter 311 of title 18, United States Code, and the United States Parole Commission, each reference in such section to “26 years” or “26-year period” shall be deemed a reference to “31 years” or “31-year period”, respectively.

SEC. 3. PAROLE COMMISSION REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the United States Parole Commission shall report to the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and House of Representatives the following for fiscal years 2012 and 2013:

(1) The number of offenders in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction, including the number of Sexual or Violent Offender Registry offenders and Tier Levels offenders.

(2) The number of hearings, record reviews and National Appeals Board considerations conducted by the Commission in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction.

(3) The number of hearings conducted by the Commission by type of hearing in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction.

(4) The number of record reviews conducted by the Commission by type of consideration in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction.

(5) The number of warrants issued and executed compared to the number requested in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction.

(6) The number of revocation determinations by the Commission in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction.

(7) The distribution of initial offenses, including violent offenses, for offenders in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction.

(8) The distribution of subsequent offenses, including violent offenses, for offenders in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction.

(9) The percentage of offenders paroled or re-paroled compared with the percentage of offenders continued to expiration of sentence (less any good time) in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction.

(10) The percentage of cases (except probable cause hearings and hearings in which a continuance was ordered) in which the primary and secondary examiner disagreed on the appropriate disposition of the case (the amount of time to be served before release), the release conditions to be imposed, or the reasons for the decision in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction.

(11) The percentage of decisions within, above, or below the Commission’s decision guidelines for Federal initial hearings (28 C.F.R. 2.20) and Federal and D.C. Code revocation hearings (28 C.F.R. 2.21).

(12) The percentage of revocation and non-revocation hearings in which the offender is accompanied by a representative in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction.

(13) The number of administrative appeals and the action of the National Appeals Board in relation to those appeals in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction.

(14) The projected number of Federal offenders that will be under the Commission’s jurisdiction as of October 31, 2018.

(15) An estimate of the date on which no Federal offenders will remain under the Commission's jurisdiction.

(16) The Commission's annual expenditures for offenders in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction.

(17) The annual expenditures of the Commission, including travel expenses and the annual salaries of the members and staff of the Commission.

(b) SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEARS.—For each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018, not later than 90 days after the end of the fiscal year, the United States Parole Commission shall report to the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and House of Representatives the items in paragraphs (1) through (17) of subsection (a), for the fiscal year.

(c) DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PAROLE FAILURE RATE REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the United States Parole Commission shall report to the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and House of Representatives the following:

(1) The parole failure rate for the District of Columbia for the last full fiscal year immediately preceding the date of the report.

(2) The factors that cause that parole failure rate.

(3) Remedial measures that might be undertaken to reduce that parole failure rate.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DO NO HARM

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, prior to being elected to Congress, I worked 28 years as a health care provider. Through working to provide patients with the best possible care, one of the earliest lessons I learned was the principle of Do No Harm. The Nation would benefit greatly if those elected to public service followed this same principle. Unfortunately, this principle has been seriously violated throughout the government funding debate.

Mr. Speaker, the American people were harmed when President Obama failed to come to the negotiating table until 11 days after the shutdown occurred. The American people were harmed when the administration purposely sought to "win" the shutdown by causing as much pain as possible before seeking to reopen the government.

"It's a cheap way to deal with the situation. We've been told to make life as difficult for people as we can. It's disgusting," stated an angry Park Service ranger in Washington, according to The Washington Times.

This is not public service; this is a public injustice. It is time to do no more harm. It is time to end the politics and start solving problems. The American people deserve as much.

SHUTDOWN'S RIPPLING EFFECT

(Mr. SWALWELL of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, the devastating effect of the shutdown is now rippling beyond the Federal workforce.

Last week it was learned that scientists at Lawrence Livermore and Sandia National Laboratory who work as Federal contractors will be furloughed this week. This is the largest employer in the 15th Congressional District, and their job is to uphold the national security mission of the United States, maintain our nuclear weapons stockpile, and provide energy security.

I flew home yesterday to hold a town hall meeting for Sandia and Livermore employees, and the room was filled with fear and anxiety about how they would meet their bills and obligations and what they would do next.

Enough is enough. The responsible thing to do is to end the government shutdown and put back to work our Federal workforce and our government contractors.

I have sent a letter to Secretary Ernie Moniz of the Department of Energy asking that we guarantee back pay for the furloughed workers at Lawrence Livermore and Sandia National Laboratory.

This ripple will continue as long as this shutdown goes on. The responsible thing to do is to end this shutdown, make sure that the cause of science is advanced at Lawrence Livermore and Sandia, and we put back to work these hardworking individuals who are serving the national mission.

ODD COINCIDENCE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I received the following email from a constituent who forwarded me comments from a former government worker:

As a former government employee, I have worked for the government for over 40 years. During that time I became familiar with requisitions, bidding, and awarding contracts. It is time-consuming with bean counters and pencil neck bureaucrats. A request takes months, not days or even hours. In less than 8 hours of the shutdown, miraculously professionally printed 3x4 signs—with logos—appeared all over the country in the 1000s saying: "This park facility closed due to government shutdown."

There has not been a government shutdown in 17 years. Signs had to be designed, requisitioned, and bids had to go out, approved and contracts signed; then the signs were made and distributed. Either this is the most efficient thing the Federal Government has ever done, or this quick shutdown was planned and determined months ago.

Mr. Speaker, if the writer is accurate, this is an interesting and odd coincidence, don't you think?

And that's just the way it is.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from

Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Tonight the country is facing great challenges—the challenges of ObamaCare, of runaway spending here in Washington, and of our fiscal crisis that is increasing our debt over and over again. Now is the time for solutions, and now is the opportunity that we have to get things right and to turn things around. I am looking forward tonight to visiting with my colleagues about the challenges we have before us as well as the opportunities.

You know, this situation that we are in today kind of reminds me of a story that I heard a few years ago. I think it is very fitting to this time in history. This is a true story. There was a man who went hunting with his dog many years ago; and as he walked through the great outdoors and came back from his hunting trip, he noticed that his pants were covered with something that in Missouri we call cockleburs. If you are not from Missouri or that part of the country, it is basically a weed, and it leaves very prickly seed pods that are about the size of a dime. And they will stick to anything from your clothes to your pet's fur, or anything else that happens to brush against it as it passes by the weed.

So this man got to looking at all of these cockleburs on his pants and his dog when he got back, and he was trying to pull them off and clean them off. And then he stopped a minute and got to look at that cocklebur and he got to thinking: What is it that causes this cocklebur to stick so well? And he wondered, is there a way we could use that same format to help provide some solutions.

He thought about some friends who had arthritis, that had trouble buttoning up their shirt or zipping things. He thought about young children, and they have trouble fastening things together. And he thought, I wonder if we could take this challenge of this cocklebur and make an opportunity out of it.

□ 1930

Do you know what he did? He invented something we all use every day called "Velcro." He laid the groundwork for what I think we need to do here in Washington: take the challenges before us and use them as an opportunity in this point in history to create a better health care system that addresses Americans' needs, that gets spending under control, makes government more efficient and more effective, and it also addresses our long-term debt and reverses course so that we will get out of debt as a Nation and balance the budget. This is the opportunity that we have before us.

Before my colleagues share their thoughts on this, I want to talk just a minute about the challenges that we have in ObamaCare. There are so many reasons that at this time in history we

have been taking a stand here in the House and saying: it is time to reverse this onerous policy, because the American people don't want it and it is hurting them.

I wanted to share at least seven things that are challenging about this law:

The first thing is that ObamaCare is causing an increase in premiums. I got last week an email from a constituent who sells insurance back home. They were very distraught because they had a customer come in who wanted to renew their health insurance. After they figured out what it would mean through ObamaCare, they discovered this customer was going to have to pay \$1,500 a month. That isn't even the full premium. Their employer would pay some others. So when you added it all up, this family—she had to tell them—was going to have to pay \$18,000 a year for their health care. This makes a difference in that family whether they can send a child to college or not. It is wrong. We need to have some solutions here.

Something else I heard today: I was visiting with a constituent who told me that they went on the exchanges to see what ObamaCare would do to their health care premiums. What she found out is that her insurance next year is going to cost \$200 more a month than she is paying right now, plus she is going to have to have a larger deductible and her coverage is going to decrease. So she was obviously very upset. ObamaCare is increasing premiums and increasing costs on Americans. That is wrong. It is time for solutions.

Number two, ObamaCare is killing jobs. Despite what others on the other side of the aisle say, it is killing jobs. One in five small businesses report that they are letting employees go due to the new law. Others are deciding not to expand their business due to the new law. The Gallup survey this year found a staggering 41 percent of small business owners are holding off hiring new employees due to ObamaCare, and 38 percent have pulled back on plans to grow their business.

I have an example I wanted to share with you from my own district. I was visiting with a small business owner the other day. They are doing pretty well. They have a small business that has been growing. The exciting thing is, they said: Representative HARTZLER, we want to open up a second location, we want to hire some new workers, we are very excited about it. But they looked at ObamaCare and the requirements involved and they said: We cannot afford it. If we open up the second location and hire new workers, we are not going to be able to keep going. So they decided not to expand their business.

Now, the thing that makes this extra tragic is, in this town there has been a manufacturing plant closed down over the last few years. There are hundreds of people in my district looking for

work who would love to have that job, but because of ObamaCare they are not going to be able to do it. This business owner wants to expand, but they can't. That is wrong. ObamaCare is killing jobs. That is why it is time for solutions.

Number three, ObamaCare is reducing the take-home pay. It has been many years since many Americans have got a raise. They are "making do," but if anybody goes to the store like I do every weekend and buys groceries and other things for your family, you know that things are costing more and more. So we have a real problem here. Americans aren't getting pay increases and yet the cost of living is going up.

There are many businesses that are cutting back on their employees' hours because of ObamaCare to get them under the 30-hour requirement. In fact, a U.S. Chamber of Commerce Small Business Outlook Study showed that 27 percent of businesses have and will cut hours to reduce from full-time employees to part-time. So we are becoming "part-time America" because of this law.

Just today, I got an email from a large business owner in Missouri, and here is what they said. It validates this very point. It says:

As one of the largest out of state employers in Missouri, we are not expanding or hiring. Our health insurance costs will increase by an estimated \$800,000 in 2014 due to ObamaCare, despite significant reductions in coverage for our employees and reducing hours to less than 30 hours per week where we can. Our taxes have gone up, regulations are overwhelming, and there is no end in sight.

It is happening.

Number four, ObamaCare is jeopardizing our personal security and our privacy. How would you like to have your Social Security number made available to everybody? According to an August 7 *Forbes* magazine article:

In order for ObamaCare to work, the government will need to know a lot about your financial, medical, and employment situation.

And this could very well—ObamaCare's exchanges—end up illegally exposing American's private records to hackers and criminals.

Just last week, when ObamaCare went online, McAfee, which is one of the Nation's premier Internet security companies, they tweeted out that ObamaCare is a "hacker's dream." This is very, very concerning. It is clearly time for solutions.

Five, ObamaCare is simply not working. I am sure many of you have heard the news reports. This is just a 4-page outline of all the different headlines from around the country about how this is not working.

Florida:

The glitches in the new electronic health care sign-up system began almost immediately, and they never let up.

Missouri:

But in Kansas and Missouri, it was more fizzle than bang.

North Dakota:

North Dakota Insurance Commissioner Adam Hamm said he and his staff were monitoring the Federal Web site Tuesday but were unable to access it.

West Virginia:

Ten hours later—after two attempts at signing up and one 45-minute call with a consumer service agent—technical glitches have prevented the 60-year-old grandfather from purchasing a plan.

It goes on and on. There are real problems there.

Six, ObamaCare is unfair. President Obama has exempted Big Business from having to comply with ObamaCare for a year, and he has granted over 1,300 waivers, yet he hasn't given a waiver to the hardworking American public who deserves it. That is not fair.

And lastly, something that a lot of people don't know, but a lot of people should care about, is that ObamaCare uses tax dollars to pay for abortions for the first time, and it hides the fact that people will be paying for abortions in their monthly bill.

Here is how it works. The law says that at least one policy in every exchange has to cover abortion. But it also says—the law says—that they can only disclose that as part of the huge summary of benefits in all the fine print that is there at only the time of initial sign-up. So many people right now are going online, and they have got these policies that come up and there is all this fine print. They don't even know that that policy includes abortion.

ObamaCare is going to have subsidies to help people pay for their premium. That subsidy comes from our tax dollars. Many Americans do not want their hard-earned tax dollars to go and pay for abortion, yet it will. Sadly, the people many times will not even know if their policy has abortion or not. There are many Americans who support life, and when they go to buy it directly, they will not know.

Inside the bill, not only does it cover abortion, but ObamaCare has what is called a "secrecy clause" in it that specifically says that that charge for the abortion fee cannot be listed in their monthly bill. So many pro-life Americans who value life unknowingly will buy an insurance policy that is covering abortion, and every month they will be paying their own hard-earned dollars to go towards abortion. It is just wrong.

So clearly, clearly we need some solutions. Republicans do have solutions. We are putting forth a health care bill that replaces and is better than ObamaCare. It allows for increased access and lower costs. You are going to be hearing more about it in the days to come. We call it the "American Health Care Reform Act." There are better solutions. We have got a lot of challenges with ObamaCare, but this is our opportunity to make it better for the American people, and that is what we are going to do.

We also have a challenge of a huge debt crisis at this time in history. I

know many of my colleagues here are going to share about that. We have got to quit spending money we don't have. People at home are tightening their belt. It is time for Washington to do that too.

This is where we are at tonight—Monday night, October 14, 2013. How this is going to play out, we don't know. But I know I am going to continue to fight for positive solutions that are good for the American people. I am going to be looking for opportunities to take the cockleburrs of life and look at them and say: Is there a way to turn this around and make something good out of it?

I believe that is where we are right now. We can make something good of this situation. It has been hard on Americans, it is hard on families, there is a lot of uncertainty. It has been hard on us as Members of Congress.

But we can make something better than has ever happened before from this country. We can produce a health care bill that the American people deserve. We can rein in this runaway spending and get it right, make government more efficient and more effective, and we can address our debt crisis. We can do it. That is our challenge, that is our opportunity, that is why we are fighting, that is why we are here tonight.

I want to thank my colleagues who stayed tonight to share their thoughts on this important time in history, this Monday night that we are at.

I would like to yield to my friend from Utah, CHRIS STEWART.

Mr. STEWART. I would like to thank the gentlewoman, Representative HARTZLER, for sharing the floor with myself and other colleagues tonight. It is an honor, especially on a topic that all of us know and recognize that is so very, very important.

Dean Acheson once said that "Negotiation in the classic diplomatic sense assumes parties are more anxious to agree than to disagree."

For the past 2 weeks, President Obama and Senator HARRY REID have made it very, very clear that they are much more anxious to disagree than they are to agree with Republicans—a situation that has very honestly prevented sincere negotiations. It is impossible to work out a deal when one party just sits on the sidelines and won't talk, like we have experienced over the last few weeks with the President. Now, we heard rumors this afternoon that the President has finally begun to negotiate with Republicans. I hope that that is true because our Founding Fathers established a system that was intended to be deliberative.

Whether you agree or disagree with the President, this much we know: he has been willing to push our Nation toward an economic crisis all for the sake of a political agenda. When this happens, every American loses. It doesn't have to be this way. It shouldn't be this way.

For 14 years, I was an Air Force pilot—which was, by the way, the

coolest job in the world. I loved doing that. At one point, I was selected to be a member of the START verification team—Strategic Arms Reduction Team. Of course, we were working with the Russians during this time. They would come to my base to verify that we had complied with elements of the START treaty.

During the 1990s, the Russians were not our friends. By the way, Mr. Speaker, I would cautiously add that today the Russians are not our friends either. These were in some cases tense and very carefully orchestrated events, but we did them. We extended a hand of trust and fellowship between two nations that had very little in common and had much to lose if they did not develop a working relationship.

Mr. Speaker, if we could do it then between the Russian and the U.S. militaries, surely we, with the Republicans and the President, could do the same thing now. The President is the leader of this Nation. He has a responsibility to lead. But part of leadership is being willing to sit down and in a sincere way be willing to listen to the other side. The President has failed in this responsibility and the Nation has paid a price.

Before being elected to Congress, I was the president and owner of a small company. Being part of a small business means developing relationships that are built upon trust. With the disastrous rollout of ObamaCare, the President has clearly broken the trust of the American people.

\$634 million—\$634 million—that is how much it cost to develop the ObamaCare Web site.

□ 1945

Facebook operated for 6 years on less money than that. Twitter was launched and operated for less than half the cost. Instagram, LinkedIn, Spotify all were designed, implemented, and operational at a fraction of the price of the ObamaCare Web page. And yet, in one of the most embarrassing moments in ObamaCare history, and I believe this will be a history that will be rife with embarrassing moments, news organizations had to search high and low throughout the country to find one person who could be verified that they had actually signed up on the ObamaCare Web page. And, of course, days later we had born the legend of Chad, something many people are very familiar with.

Harkening back to my military days, if I had been given a mission and had so utterly failed to accomplish that mission, I would have been held accountable. So I ask, Mr. Speaker, when will Kathleen Sebelius be held accountable for this disaster? After more than 3 years and after more than \$630 million and a failure to launch such as this, why does she still have her job?

But let's remember this: at the end of the day, we are not talking about ObamaCare, and we are not really talking about a Web page or a sequester or

a continuing resolution. What we are really talking about at the end of the day is our Nation's crushing national debt. Our national debt is now approaching \$17 trillion. Now, President Obama congratulates himself on having reduced the debt by half; but listen, when you run up a debt after 1 year in office of \$1.2 trillion or \$1.3 trillion, when you have nearly 4 years in a row of a greater than a trillion-dollar annual deficit, and then you congratulate yourself because you cut it \$6 or \$7 billion, that is not something to celebrate.

Now is the time to work together towards a balanced budget and actually beginning to pay down that debt. Yes, this is a tough decision, but we were elected to make tough decisions. My plea to the Senate and to the President is: Please, come to the table. Let's start the conversation now about how we can put our fiscal house in order. Time is running out.

With that, once again, Mrs. HARTZLER, thank you for yielding to me.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you, CHRIS. I really appreciate your perspective. As a former Air Force pilot, I think what you said about leadership is very true. It is time for the President to show some leadership and for us to get together and to talk about this. That is why it is time for solutions. Thanks for sharing those things.

Now I would like to yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), who is chairman of the Republican Study Committee and a real leader here in this House, and I certainly appreciate you sharing tonight.

Mr. SCALISE. I thank the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) for her leadership as the chair of the RSC Communications Committee for leading this effort to talk about real solutions. Of course, today we are in day 14 of a government shutdown, a shutdown that has seen Republicans bring proposal after proposal after proposal to fund government. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out, there are more than 20 bills now that have been passed by the House of Representatives to fund all or parts of the Federal Government—20 bills. This chart chronicles the timeline, going back to September 20, well in advance of the mid-night hour where, today, on day 14, by the way, President Obama has still yet to even engage in conversations.

In fact, we went to the White House Thursday to meet with the President, sat in a room with him for an hour and a half. The simple offer was: Mr. President, we will increase the debt ceiling. All we are asking is for you to start talking, just to agree to have conversations; and, unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we left that meeting without the President even being willing to start talking.

And so we are 14 days into a government shutdown that the President is decrying and calling people names. You have got people in the White House literally calling people suicide bombers,

terrorists, and all kinds of other things that are so unbecoming of the Office of the President of the United States—again, a President who said he was going to change the tone in Washington allowing people in his White House to call people on the opposition terrorists and suicide bombers—and yet he refuses to even sit at the table and negotiate our differences while we have passed 20 different bills to fund all or parts of government.

What are some of those parts of government? A bill to fund veterans affairs. Mr. Speaker, for all the areas of disagreement we have in Washington—and clearly, with a divided Nation with a divided government, there are areas where we have disagreement, but we should all be able to come to the table and say we ought to fund our veterans while we are negotiating our differences on the things we disagree upon.

And yet we sent the bill over to the Senate to fund our veterans, and HARRY REID tabled that bill, Mr. Speaker. We sent a bill to say that disaster aid shouldn't be something that we disagree over. We passed a bill with bipartisan votes and sent it over to the Senate. In fact, we saw one of the most disgraceful acts by a Commander in Chief, Mr. Speaker, where for days we saw this administration refusing to give death benefits to our fallen heroes, a moment I don't think we have seen in our Nation's history.

And we passed a bill to say don't hold our veterans hostage, and yet you still see barricades—I call them "Obamacades"—up in front of the World War II Memorial, an open-air memorial where, in normal days, there is nobody there being paid to guard or block this memorial. It is an open-air memorial built to honor our World War II heroes. And yet when our World War II heroes come from all around the country, some in their nineties, come to see their memorial, they are greeted by barricades by this administration. This is the kind of embarrassing leadership that we are getting out of the White House when all we are saying is let's negotiate our differences like has always been done.

When Ronald Reagan was President, Tip O'Neill was the Speaker, and you had divided government. There were 12 different shutdowns during that time in our Nation's history. What Ronald Reagan did as a leader, as a great leader, one that we surely miss today, Ronald Reagan started having regular meetings with Tip O'Neill. They actually built a relationship, started getting things done. And we saw one of the greatest revolutions, economic expansion in our Nation's history because you had a real leadership in the White House.

Mr. Speaker, again, we have sent 20 different bills over to the Senate, all chronicled, many of which had large Democrat votes out of the House. Still to this day, not one word from the President over whether he would agree

to start talking. Of course, he wants to make it all about ObamaCare. Clearly, there are big areas where we have disagreement, but it is not just a partisan issue. It is not just Republicans who have issues with ObamaCare. Let's start with the occupant of the Oval Office.

Barack Obama has problems with ObamaCare. He has issued over 1,200 waivers to his signature law, as the gentlelady from Missouri pointed out. I have yet to find one small business in my district who got one of those waivers, by the way. It was handed out to a lot of special-interest friends who could get access to the White House. Is that the way the government is supposed to run? In fact, he even worked out a deal to give Members of Congress an exemption from his signature health care law.

So what we are saying, Mr. Speaker, is why don't we start with the basic premise of fairness. If this law is so good, make it apply to everybody. If it is not that good, if it is so bad you need to issue 1,200 waivers to your friends, Mr. Speaker, then why not give that same waiver to all Americans until this thing is ready to work, which clearly it is not. As somebody once said, the failures of this law, October 1 was a date that for 3 years they knew was coming, where these exchanges had to be up and running, and now we are hearing debacle after debacle, people registering 12, 14 times without being able to get through. Somebody said it is like Flowers.com not being prepared for Valentine's Day.

So as we stand here today talking about getting our economy back on track and talking about the 20 different proposals we have sent over to the Senate to get government up and running, most of which have not been given even a minute's consideration, literally tabled on party-line votes by Senator REID, what we are saying is: How about just fairness? Let's start with fairness and make ObamaCare apply to everybody. If it is that good, why don't we make it apply to everybody? Get rid of all these special waivers, all these special backroom deals to everybody from the President's friends to Members of Congress. Let's make it apply to everybody. Let's get the government back open, and let's start tackling our long-term spending problems that are causing programs like Medicare and Social Security to face bankruptcy where we have put good plans on the table to save those programs from bankruptcy and, frankly, Mr. Speaker, to save our country from bankruptcy so we can hand off to our kids and grandkids the same opportunity that we enjoy today in the greatest country in the history of the world, a country that is facing serious problems, a country, unfortunately, facing a lack of leadership from the President who, 14 days into a government shutdown, still to this day has not even agreed to start talking with people from the other party to work out those differences.

I thank the gentlewoman from Missouri for creating this forum to talk about solutions, and my other colleagues in the Republican Study Committee who have been bringing forward solution after solution to get our economy moving again and restore the greatness that this country knows is there, that beacon of light that we are all fighting for here tonight on the House floor.

Mrs. HARTZLER. I thank you, Mr. SCALISE, talking about the leadership that we have been providing here in the House.

I think it is very important that people know, we proactively worked to make sure that government stayed open. We passed these bills way before October 1. Unfortunately, we haven't had leadership from the White House or from the Senate willing to come together. Thank you for bringing that up.

In fact, something that a lot of people don't know is that, at this point in the House of Representatives, we have already passed one-third of all appropriations bills in the continuing resolution. We have been passing bill after bill to keep this government open, to fund it and make sure it keeps going and working for the American people. The Senate has not passed them. They haven't taken them up. So it is not us that has shut down the government or is responsible for this lapse in funding, and it is certainly not us that is keeping it shut. Thank you very much for sharing that.

Now I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER). I am glad to have you here tonight and appreciate what you have to share.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. I thank the gentlewoman from Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, it is good to be here.

Mr. Speaker, since 1978, the debt ceiling has been raised 53 times, and 27 of these increases have been used as a negotiating tool both by Congress and the President. So why not now, Mr. President? Can we not negotiate now? And to borrow a somewhat trite phrase from days gone by, yes, we can.

Sadly, today we have a President who does not want to make any concessions with House Republicans. You know, Thomas Jefferson once said, "Pride costs us more than hunger, thirst, and cold." Has pride gotten in the way, clouding the judgment of our President, do you think, Mr. Speaker? Has this President chosen party politics and his unworkable health care law over working with House Republicans toward fair solutions that would help hardworking Americans keep more money in their pockets?

Mr. Speaker, think with me here for a second. During the debt ceiling debate in March 2006, then-Senator Obama said:

The fact that we are here today to debate raising America's debt limit is a sign of leadership failure. It is a sign that the U.S. Government cannot pay its own bills. It is a sign that we now depend on ongoing financial assistance from foreign countries to finance

our government's reckless fiscal policies. Increasing America's debt weakens us domestically and internationally. Leadership means that "the buck stops here." Instead, Washington is shifting the burden of bad choices today onto the backs of our children and grandchildren. America has a debt problem and a failure of leadership. Americans deserve better.

Yet, here we are, 7 years later, and we are debating the exact same thing. Why is that okay, now, I would ask him, Mr. Speaker. Why is that okay, now, Mr. President? Do we have a failure of leadership? Can we admit that? Yes, we can.

It is a failure of leadership also for spewing such venomous rhetoric when the governing process doesn't go your way, calling Republicans names. It is a failure of not listening to the American people. Can we call this a failure of leadership? Yes, we can.

□ 2000

The American people want the government reopened. They want to make their own health care decisions. The shutdown the American people want is the out-of-control government spending, the \$17 trillion debt that has been amassed that the President in his own words said "is a failure of leadership," and then in another instance, "unpatriotic." Mr. Speaker, House Republicans have put forth proposal after proposal to fund this government, to keep it open, to protect the American people from the President's hostile takeover of the health care system.

Sadly, we still have a President and a Senate majority leader acting like petulant children, refusing to come to the table to negotiate, prolonging that failure of leadership. Each day that passes, with the Affordable Care Act going into effect, our Nation's fiscal health gets worse—a failure of leadership. I love America too much to let it fall under these circumstances. I will not stand by and watch as our country crumbles because of a President who is not willing to work with us and come to the table and to carry out this prolonged failure of leadership.

I am RANDY WEBER, and America is worth fighting for. I thank the gentlewoman from Missouri for fighting alongside me and continuing this valiant effort.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you, Randy. It is an honor to stand beside you in this. This is a time for solutions. And people wonder, Can we get this right? Can we make things better? Can we keep the opportunity for the future? With you, I would say, Yes, we can, but we are going to keep working on it. Thank you very much.

I now yield to my friend from the Midwest, from Indiana, MARLIN STUTZMAN. What would you like to share with us tonight?

Mr. STUTZMAN. First, I would like to thank the gentlewoman for yielding and organizing this Special Order about solutions. That is what the American people expect from us as Congress, whether you are a Repub-

lican or whether you are a Democrat. The American people are looking to Washington to find solutions, to work together, to make America strong again. So I want to thank you for your comments today and for representing your district so well.

It doesn't take much to sort out and to realize the difficulty that we are facing in our country and what our Federal Government is facing: \$17 trillion in debt, a struggling economy, a health care system that does need to be fixed. People are looking to Washington to gain confidence in the marketplace. And in spite of Washington, you will find bright spots throughout the country where good things are happening, but it is not enough. We can still do better. And it is time for Washington to find solutions for our economy, for the American people, for American families so that way when a family sits down to have dinner tonight, they are not going to be wondering if Dad is going to be going to work next week. They don't have to worry whether Mom will have her job the following month. What is going to happen after Christmas time? What is going to happen next year? They hear so many different stories about the new health care law and what it means for them. What is their insurance plan going to be like next year? There are so many unknowns and questions that are not answered because of the uncertainty that Washington has placed irresponsibly on the American people.

While we know we have \$17 trillion of debt, a deficit that is running out of balance, a health care law that is crushing the American people today, an Independent Payment Advisory Board that has 15 board members that are unelected and unaccountable who will be making health care decisions for Americans in the near term, we still have an unemployment rate of 8 percent and mandates from ObamaCare that are forcing companies to cut hours. Too much uncertainty is being created by our Federal Government.

Small businesses are trying to figure out how they are going to make ends meet next year, how they are going to plan their budget when they know the mandates and the cost of insurance continue to crush them, how they are going to create new jobs and expand their companies if regulations continue to hamper them and the new health care law continues to sidetrack them.

One of the taxes that is in the health care law that is driving jobs away from Indiana is the medical device tax, also known as the pacemaker tax, the wheelchair tax. Anything that is a medical device, such as a hip, a knee, a joint, these things are taxed now because of ObamaCare. It is over 20,000 jobs just in Indiana. Warsaw, Indiana, in particular, is the orthopedic capital of the world. It is the home to Zimmer, Biomet, DePuy, Paragon, and so many other companies that are doing so much remarkable work for the betterment of Americans.

I know that my grandmother had her hip replaced before she passed away 10 years ago, and it changed her life. It gave her a new ability to enjoy life with her children and her grandchildren. This is an industry that is being harmed by ObamaCare, and it is time that we take a step back and reevaluate and find new solutions.

Unfortunately, this tax is putting 2,000 jobs in jeopardy in Indiana, and I believe that it is time for Washington, for the President, for the Senate, and for the House to come together. Let's stop stumbling from crisis to crisis. That is not the best way to govern. The American people are tired of the way Washington has these cycles of political stunts and fiscal cliffs and all these other manufactured crises.

Hoosiers know, as many Americans know, that in order to get a job done, you have to sit down and figure out a way to get it done, talk about it, and then go out and do it. But Washington is broke because government spends too much and talks too little. So I think now is the time for us to get serious about our debt. We need to reform our entitlement programs. We need to work towards reforming our Tax Code. We have solutions. We have ideas. We can make things better for not only the American people, but for the world, if we would just trust the instincts of the American people. If we followed those instincts and followed the example of the American people, the Federal Government would be in a much better place today.

It is time for solutions, and I want to thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for her leadership on this issue tonight.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you very much, MARLIN. That is right: it is time for solutions. And I very much appreciate you bringing up the concern with the taxes. We haven't talked about that yet tonight, but there are 20 new taxes in ObamaCare, and especially, as you pointed out, the medical device tax, which is very onerous and killing jobs all over.

The statement you said that is going to stick with me most tonight that I hope the American people remember and that I love that you just said is that Washington is broke because it spends too much and it talks too little. Well said.

Thank you very much for sharing your thoughts.

I now yield to my friend from Michigan, KERRY BENTIVOLIO.

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Thank you. I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Missouri for the opportunity to speak on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before this Chamber today to talk about the Democrat shutdown.

In the House we are standing strong to prevent ObamaCare from hurting people. Just today, the Detroit Free Press, a liberal-leaning paper, reported that two health insurance companies are dropping the low-cost plans for

146,000 Michigan families due to ObamaCare. This will cost each of these families thousands of dollars per year, more to be covered by ObamaCare-approved health care plans. That is unacceptable. Our government is shut down because the extreme liberal Democrats refuse to negotiate and have rejected bills to keep most of the government open. This behavior reminds me of a spoiled child having a temper tantrum who runs to their room, slams the door shut, and refuses to come out until their demands are met.

This is no way to behave and is a disservice to all Americans. Mr. Speaker, they are obsessed with forcing health care legislation, which they are exempt from, onto the American people. They want two classes, the majority who live under ObamaCare and the elite who use their connections to get waivers.

By refusing to fund veterans, to keep the parks open, or support pediatric cancer research, Senate and House Democrats are showing whose side they are on, and it is not the American people.

I plead with my responsible, adult Democrat colleagues that it is not too late. Let's move forward. Join the rest of the American people and support equality under the law.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you, KERRY. And thank you for your leadership. I know you have been going down to the World War II Memorial and helping to open up the barricades for our Honor Flights coming in. It is sad that we have to do that, but thank you for your leadership in that.

I now turn to one of your colleagues from Michigan, BILL HUIZENGA, and yield time to him.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Thanks. I appreciate my good friend from Missouri putting this together and having this conversation.

This is a conversation we need to have with the American people. There is obviously a lot of misinformation that is going out over the airwaves as we have talked about a number of times, and I think people are looking for that information. I know I have been tweeting out a few of the articles that I have come across on my iPhone here.

For those of you out there watching, it is @RepHuizenga. I would love for you to follow me and take a look at this, this #Time4Solutions hash tag that we have going here because it is talking about some of those challenges, as well as the solutions that, I think, we are all looking for.

I appreciate you pointing out to my friend and colleague from Michigan, KERRY BENTIVOLIO, who is a great veteran himself of Iraq, as well as earlier times, and has done a couple of tours. For me, that World War II Memorial was something very special to be able to be a part of. That first day, there weren't television cameras around, there wasn't media. There wasn't any-

body around except for those of us who cared about making sure that our veterans had an opportunity to go in and see a memorial that they earned.

I will tell you, as someone who is the son of a disabled World War II veteran, a man who suffered a B-24 crash in Italy in 1944, I can tell you I know how powerful it is for him, how powerful it was for his buddies that he was able to go to the memorial, and how powerful it was for me as a family member to be along on that very special day. The least that we can do is to open that up.

It is not just the World War II Memorial. It is the Korea memorial. I had a chance to bring a group of veterans from the Grand Rapids area in my district and in and around Kentwood and those areas. We went down to the World War II Memorial, and we also went down to the Korea memorial. That is where most of them were. They were greeted with no crowds, but the same barricades, as well as a park ranger who was in a very tough spot. He told me, Congressman, I am here to tell you that this monument is closed, this park is closed. I said, Well, respectfully I am here to tell you that I am going to help my constituents exercise their First Amendment rights and open up that barricade. We were able to get some people in there.

Today, as I was coming in, I drove past the Martin Luther King memorial. It was the same thing. There were buses lined up on the street with their flashers going, and there was a tremendous number of people in there exercising their First Amendment right, that civil disobedience that had gone on. The gate was kicked open, and they were in there going and seeing that memorial to a great man the way that it should be, open and available, right now, without the excuses, without the rented barricades, without those other things.

I also want to touch a little bit on the health care side as we are going through this. I appreciate you saying it is not just challenges, but also the opportunities. Frankly, we need to be talking to each other, to get to those solutions. This hash tag, #Time4Solutions, is very timely. We have had a Senate leader who has said absolutely no negotiations, none.

Now we are finally getting there, I think because they are hearing from their constituents back home that we need you to be talking.

□ 2015

The same with the White House. I think the White House even came around a little sooner than what the Senate leader did. But it is time to make sure that we are having these negotiations and these conversations.

A lot of us know the challenge, many of them are very well known, the signup glitches that happened. Glitches might be charitable, shall we say, for what was going on.

But one of my colleagues from Michigan, the chairman of the Intelligence

Committee, MIKE ROGERS, had put forward an op-ed not that long ago, and I have a copy of it here that I was reading. He is talking about the privacy threat.

If you look at the hub, the data hub that is being built, you know, our health care records are going to be exposed to a tremendous number of people.

Your privacy information, your private information, health care information, yours, mine, all the constituents that are out there watching this, their information, your information is at risk. Your information is at risk, and it is time that we do something about it.

Now, who hasn't heard the "if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor?" Well, maybe not so much.

This is one of the things I just tweeted out. CNNMoney today was reporting about doctor choice and ObamaCare—not so much. This is CNN. This isn't me. This is CNN.

They are saying that, for example, there was a major insurer that was offering policies in 14 different States, and what they are saying is that they are looking at the more heavier areas of population, eliminating up to half of the doctors.

Think of that. Half of the doctors that currently you could go to if you had one of their off-exchange plans won't be available to you. In a lesser populated area, it is "only" going to be 10 or 20 percent of those same doctors.

I can tell you, I sat, for a number of years, on the Michigan Rural Health Association board of directors as we were looking at health care issues in Michigan, especially in the rural areas. If you are starting to limit health care choices, even more so than what they already are in some of these rural areas, the damage that is going to be done to people and that relationship that they have with their doctor and with their health care provider—a place where you maybe have to do telemedicine just to be able to get the proper diagnosis and the things that are going on.

We have all heard, "If you like your plan, you can keep your plan." Maybe not so much.

Oh, but the plans are going to be more affordable. Well, they had the number right. There was a discussion that this was going to save \$2,500 for the average family. Unfortunately, we now know it is the right number, but the wrong direction. So it is actually going to cost the average family, like mine—I have got five young kids—it is going to cost \$2,500 additional. That is the wrong direction.

Some of the lesser-knowns—I will give you an example. My nephew, Andrew, is putting himself through college. He is working as a waiter in a nice restaurant.

A couple of months ago they called everybody in for the staff meeting and said, by the way, we are going to be starting this soon: No more than 29

hours per week. No more than 29 hours per week.

And he said, you know, Uncle Bill, I can get through this. It is not going to be easy. It is not going to be my choice, but I can get through it.

But he is looking at these colleagues, these single moms, these single moms that are saying, now where do I go for another 10 hours? Now how do I figure out where I am going to make ends meet and how I am going to make ends meet?

I think that is why we have seen letters by those big Republican organizations like SEIU, the Teamsters, the AFL-CIO, not exactly institutions normally related and associated with the Republican Party. They have put in formal letters saying, Wait a minute; this is not being implemented the way that it was supposed to be implemented.

They are afraid that there is an attack on the 40-hour work week, as well they should be afraid. That is exactly what is happening right now, and we need to be making sure that we are pushing back at that.

The medical device tax has been brought up a little bit. This has a significant impact in Michigan. Stryker Corporation, out of the Kalamazoo area, they have said publicly that it is going to cost them 1,000 jobs, 1,000 jobs. All right?

It is also going to be hundreds of millions of dollars in new taxes that are being laid on. This ObamaCare tax, it has been deemed a tax by the Supreme Court, so let's talk about it in the terms of a tax.

It is time that we repealed this tax. It is time that we not take those 1,000 jobs away from Stryker; time that we not take those jobs out of Ann Arbor, an innovative hub; time that we not take those jobs away from the next entrepreneur in Grand Rapids, on Pill Hill, Medical Mile, as it is sometimes called; that we make sure that they have got the same opportunities, not less opportunities, the same opportunities. That isn't going to happen under this.

As you had pointed out, coverage, the mandatory, forced coverage of abortive services that is mandated in this bill, is absolutely wrong.

I have a company that is gaining some prominence in my district called Autocam. John Kennedy, the majority stakeholder and president and CEO of Autocam, was just in Washington sharing his story last week.

As a devout Catholic, he had made the decision that that wasn't going to be something that he would offer in his plans. They are self-insured, and if his employees wanted to go do that, that was their choice, but he wasn't going to be forced to pay for it, until this bill came along and said: It doesn't matter what your personal beliefs are.

It doesn't matter that you own the company. It doesn't matter that your religion says this is wrong. We know better. This government knows better,

and we are going to force you to spend that money to provide a service that you wholeheartedly disagree with.

Does that sound like the American way to you?

Does that sound like the American way to any of us? Absolutely not, yet, somehow we are viewing it as acceptable.

Waivers for the politically-connected, as has been talked about; as long as you have got a good friend that is either in the White House or at Health and Human Services, we can probably work something out for you.

Now, how does that feel?

Now, today though, we finally maybe got to the root of it. The Senate had been going along, no negotiations, no negotiations, no negotiations.

Oh, but if you want to spend some more money, if you want to roll back those automatic, across-the-board cuts that we had agreed to 2 years ago, maybe we will start talking about some reforms. That is what it is.

As we talked about, this is about spending. This is about a group of people that want to see government grow. They want to see the footprint of the government just smash down on top of everything here and take control of our daily lives. That is really what the problem is.

So now we are seeing what the Senate is really all about. It is about spending. It is about more spending and more control for them. Now, that has got to stop.

Now, the opportunity side. I want to wrap up because I know we have got some other colleagues that are here, and we are having a great conversation and, again, I appreciate your hashtag, Time4Solutions, because this really is about those opportunities, as you talked about, the invention of Velcro and how we got there.

I have learned that most of the times you learn more from the things in life that are tough, not the easy things. Major shifts in society are not easy. They might be simple, but sometimes those simple things aren't real easy. Well, this is neither simple nor easy, and it is because it is the wrong direction.

First and foremost, we need the White House to acknowledge these problems. They won't even acknowledge these problems. It is all hunkydory, peaches and cream here in Washington, D.C. We are rolling this program out.

Excuse us. We had to make sure that you don't worry about those "glitches" that were in the system as we rolled it out. Please don't look at those exemptions and carve-outs that we have had. Please don't, whatever you do, please, oh, please, don't talk about how this is a growing frustration that the American people have, because that would somehow acknowledge that the American people might know better than they do down at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

We have to acknowledge those problems. Words speak louder—I am sorry—

actions speak louder than words. The words are, everything is fine. The actions are very, very different though. The actions are very, very different out of this administration, as they have signed 17 changes into this law, as we have seen these carve-outs, as we have seen them do things like make sure that the individual mandate is kept in place, but the other mandates are not put in.

I know my colleagues are here too, and I want to give them time, so I am going to wrap up with this. My friend from Missouri, thank you for doing this.

It is time that we do make those substantive changes and restore some faith, restore some faith with the American people, that we have their best interest, and make sure that Congress can live under the same laws that they vote for and that they pass.

I appreciate you having this conversation tonight.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you very much, BILL. Those were very eloquent remarks. You really brought home the need that it is time for solutions and all the challenges that we are facing.

Before I go to our other friends here, I do want to get this motion in.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mrs. HARTZLER. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, KEITH ROTHFUS, who is new here but, boy, he hit the ground running.

Appreciate your leadership, KEITH. What would you like to share tonight?

Mr. ROTHFUS. I thank the gentlelady for organizing this talk.

Pennsylvania's 12th District in western Pennsylvania stretches from Beaver to Johnstown and to the northern suburbs of Pittsburgh.

Last week we had a visit from HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, who was in town to tout the benefits of the health care law. She also attempted to help enroll some western Pennsylvanians in the exchanges.

According to press reports, however, those who showed up were not able to enroll, or even access the Web site. Apparently, glitches were to blame.

As reported in yesterday's New York Times, however, one industry source said, "These are not glitches. The extent of the problems is pretty enormous. It's awful." These problems took more than 2 years to build, and cost the American taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

The health care law's troubles aren't limited, however, to the Web site issues. Many western Pennsylvanians have reached out to me to share stories about how they are seeing their hours

reduced, or losing their jobs. Other western Pennsylvanians are seeing their health care premiums go up, or losing coverage altogether.

A woman recently got in touch with me and told me that her family recently received a letter from their insurance company, and they will lose the health insurance they have had for more than 25 years on December 31. The alternatives they have been able to find will cost them three times what they pay today.

Mr. Speaker, it is a time for solutions. We do have a new solution that we are proposing, The American Health Care Reform Act, which will actually lower costs, and I encourage our colleagues across the aisle and in our conference to take a look at that.

I thank the gentlelady for the time.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you very much, KATH. Good point there.

Now I yield to a friend from Kentucky, ANDY BARR.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlelady from Missouri for her leadership in leading this Special Order.

Many Americans watching on TV right now are frustrated. They are angry with what they are seeing in Washington. They don't understand why political conflict has to get in the way of solutions.

They are saying, and they are saying to all of us, why are the politicians putting their political agendas ahead of what is good for the country?

I share that frustration and anger, and I understand what they are saying. They are saying, why can't the politicians get their act together?

Why can't they reopen the government and avert default?

But you know, as important as it is to reopen the government, and as important as it is to avert a short-term default, and those are very critical, it is equally important that we stop business as usual in Washington.

It is important that Members of Congress do what they were elected to do, which is exercise leadership, stand up for what is right and what is in the long-term best interest of the Nation.

What is in the long-term best interest of the Nation is to stop spending money we don't have. It is to stop racking up mounds of debt to end the reckless practices in Washington that are literally mortgaging the future of our children and our grandchildren and pushing this country to the brink of national bankruptcy.

Now, some have accused House Republicans of holding the country hostage solely for the purpose of repealing or defunding the President's signature legislative achievement, ObamaCare.

Why is this relevant?

The President says ObamaCare should not be part of any negotiations to fund the government or raise the debt limit. But my constituents in Kentucky recognize the President's health care law for what it actually is, which is a massive increase in Federal spending.

Its projected cost has more than doubled since the President originally claimed it would reduce the deficit. It will cost American taxpayers \$2 trillion over the next decade, and its true cost will continue to grow.

ObamaCare was rammed through Congress on a partisan basis through a process that was specifically reserved for budget-related bills, the reconciliation process. So for anyone to suggest that ObamaCare is unrelated to the budget is both cynical and inconsistent with Congress' ongoing responsibility to scrutinize Federal spending.

After racking up \$7 trillion in debt in just 5 years, the President stubbornly refuses to negotiate over ObamaCare. But make no mistake: Congress would not be doing its job if it ignored ObamaCare and its massive cost in the ongoing debate about how to save America from bankruptcy.

□ 2030

So, Mr. Speaker, let me just conclude by saying this. It would be unfair for young people and the next generation if we simply raised the debt limit without also addressing the underlying cause of our problems, without also addressing the cause of our fiscal situation, and that is runaway government spending. This is our opportunity. This is our moment. Let's seize this opportunity on a bipartisan basis. It is time for solutions.

I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership in this Special Order.

Let's not just raise the debt limit and keep kicking the can down the road. Let's solve America's problem and finally force the government to live within its means.

Mrs. HARTZLER. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and my privilege today to stand in the House of Representatives, along with my distinguished colleague from the Silver State, Representative STEVEN HORSFORD, to coanchor the CBC Special Order, the hour of power, where, for the next 60 minutes, members of the Congressional Black Caucus have an opportunity to talk directly to the American people about the situation that we face in this country right

now related to both the government shutdown and the impending debt ceiling crisis that we confront.

Mr. Speaker, this is day 14 of a government shutdown brought to us by reckless, irresponsible, and unreasonable behavior by our friends on the other side of the aisle. It is a government shutdown that is hurting the American people. It is hurting children, placing their Head Start programming at risk. It is hurting seniors who rely on the Meals on Wheels program. It is hurting expectant mothers who may be unable to receive the nutritional assistance that they are otherwise qualified for. It is hurting the more than 800,000 hardworking civil servants who have been unceremoniously cast out of their jobs, uncertain as to when they may be able to return. It is hurting America.

But as bad as this government shutdown has been, we are also faced with a crisis that might be even worse if we are unable in this House to raise the debt ceiling within the next several days. The Treasury Secretary has indicated that the United States effectively will run out of the capacity to pay all of its bills and its creditors if we do not raise the debt ceiling by Thursday, October 17, just a few days from now.

Now, the debt ceiling has been a vehicle that all too often has been mischaracterized, perhaps intentionally, perhaps out of ignorance. I am not certain. But let's just clear the record as to what the debt ceiling actually represents. It is a backward-looking vehicle, not a forward-looking vehicle designed to give the President the ability to spend more. That is a gross mischaracterization. The debt ceiling is a backward-looking vehicle designed to give the President and this administration the capacity to pay bills that this Congress has already incurred.

We just want the Congress to undertake its constitutional responsibility pursuant to the 14th Amendment, where, in section 4, it makes clear the validity of the public debt authorized by law shall not be questioned. And it is Congress, in section 5 of the 14th Amendment, that has the responsibility to adhere to that constitutional requirement.

We are going to explore this theme and the consequences of a debt ceiling default during this Special Order. And I am very pleased that we have been joined by the dynamic leader of the Congressional Black Caucus, the distinguished chairperson from the great State of Ohio, Representative MARCIA FUDGE.

Ms. FUDGE. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I would like to thank my colleagues, Congressmen JEFFRIES and HORSFORD, for once again leading the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, here we stand, nearly 72 hours before the United States Treasury reaches the debt limit. We are 72 hours away from compromising our

ability to make Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and veterans benefits payments. We are 72 hours away from risking default on our international debt obligations; 72 hours away from the potential of stocks plummeting and interest rates soaring, reversing recent gains in the housing, automobile, and banking markets. Our Nation is 72 hours away from the possibility of a severe economic disaster both at home and abroad.

Unfortunately, the House majority's inability to move beyond partisan politics has created one economic crisis after another. Our country is still feeling the effects of the economic downturn and subsequent recession that began in 2007. Communities around the country continue to struggle with high unemployment, less access to loans for small businesses, and a fragile housing market. It is irresponsible to do further damage to our economy by even threatening to allow America to default on its bills.

We must first do no harm, Mr. Speaker. Yet that is exactly the position we are in because of House Republicans.

Now, don't be misled by Republican talking points that would lead you to believe that raising the debt limit leads to more spending. This only allows us to pay debts that have already been accrued, debts that have already been authorized by this Congress.

While both parties have politicized the debt limits in the past, we have never—and I repeat, never—seen this degree of brinkmanship. Prior to this dysfunctional Congress, the debt limit debates never contemplated an actual default. Members of Congress never faced the impact of crossing that threshold and artificially forcing the Nation into the depths of economic disaster. And ultimately, when legislative language was attached to the debt limit, it was a part of a package that passed with strong bipartisan support.

We simply cannot afford the catastrophic consequences of a government default. It is time for Congress to put the American people first, work together to find a solution, and put partisan bickering behind us. Our Nation has worked too hard to put us on the path to recovery.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to move forward. The American people expect Congress to do its job. The CBC stands ready—ready to work with our colleagues to raise the debt ceiling, reject the politics of brinkmanship, and get our economic house in order.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished chairwoman for her insightful, thorough remarks.

I now yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from the great State of Texas, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, who has joined us today to share her remarks and observations as to this debt ceiling crisis that we are confronting right now.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me thank the gentleman for his courtesies and look at this in a somewhat unique fash-

ion to speak to the pending crisis and to join with my colleagues, and particularly in following the chairwoman, Congresswoman FUDGE, and thanking her for setting the tone of the interests of the Congressional Black Caucus to be collaborative and to be problem solvers.

Let me thank the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) for his timeliness in bringing us to the floor tonight and the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD) for recognizing the vital importance of speaking to the American people and certainly to our colleagues.

I do want to offer to my colleagues a legislative initiative that I hope all of my friends—Republicans and Democrats—will join in sponsoring, H. Res. 375, which commits this House to refraining from conditioning the resolution of fiscal and budgetary disputes on the taking of action related to non-germane legislative matters.

As I listened to my friends on the other side of the aisle, one person sought to refute the representation that all of us have made, which is that we have never been in a position to hold hostage the whole budgeting process through the idea of a legislative fight, and I would beg to differ on the interpretation of my Republican friends that that has occurred. It did not occur during the shutdown dealing with President Clinton and the Speaker of the House, then-Speaker Gingrich; and, in fact, we had passed a number of appropriation bills that had already been passed. So even though the government was shut down, there was not this dire, complete collapse of the government that we are facing now.

In addition, there is a representation that we have passed any number of pointed appropriations during this shutdown. Mr. Speaker, those were only political votes. The reason why they were ineffective and members of our party voted against them was because they were political votes. They were meant entirely to get Democrats on the record for half-funding Health and Human Services, half-funding Indian Services, half-funding Homeland Security, half-funding any number of departments that, in fact, did not make sense.

So let me give you the real cost, if you will, of where we are today and give it from the perspective of my committee, and that is, the Judiciary Committee. And one of our major agencies, the FBI, that clearly has focused on the security, domestic security of this Nation, very vital work of field agents that I work with every day, just about 72 hours ago, FBI agents joined with my local officials in Houston and busted a heinous and horrific human trafficking operation, little girls sexually used and abused and manipulated, if you will—the FBI.

Well, here is a quote from the FBI:

The impact of sequestration, which is part of the budgeting process, puts us further behind enemies and criminals that pose threats to national security and public safety.

And they list a whole litany of issues that are impacted. Let me just read a few: undermining counterterrorism investigations, exposing vulnerable populations to greater risk, halting counterintelligence cases, closing white collar cases has been delayed, limiting mortgage and financial fraud cases, constraining use of official vehicles, losing informants, impeding surveillance, harming local cooperation, reducing field time, increasing retirements.

All of this impacts on the very basic responsibilities that we give to them; and it seems sad that we are putting these individuals who are putting themselves on the front lines of criminal enforcement, that we are, in fact, causing that to be halted.

Lastly, on the FBI, Quantico, we all know, is a training ground for agents and others all across America:

Quantico is quiet. I have no new agent classes going through there. I can't afford it.

There are any number of other issues, of course, that we could comment on, but let me continue by moving to my State, the State of Texas.

But before I do that, here is a document from the administrative Office of the United States Courts. Again, something that the Judiciary has concern for. And we are told, as of tomorrow, possibly, that judicial matters may be shut down, may be stopped because of the restraints on our article III judges, and that is shameful.

That means justice is stopping. That means public defenders are not being paid. Although all of those folks are continuing to come, in some instances, there may be major impacts in the court system.

But I would like to turn our attention to the discourse that is occurring here; and as I do that, let me make mention for my friends of one answer to why we should not be holding ObamaCare and the American people hostage.

First I want to say, coming from my district, I met with over 40 navigators. They have concerns. We all want to make sure this works right, which is what I wished my Republican friends would do. But they had smiles on their faces because what they are saying is the people are eager. They are eager in Texas, a State where we have denied the expanded Medicaid. We don't have our State exchange. We have done damage to those who need insurance. It is a shame what we have done in Texas.

But those who have been assigned to get an outreach are smiling, not because they get paid a whole lot of money, but because they are reaching people who are desperate and who want to be insured.

□ 2045

And so I will put in the RECORD an article called, "ObamaCare Saved My Family From Financial Ruin." It talks about a young boy with a brain tumor and leading up to the point of losing all of his insurance. He might have been

born with this tumor, but he was only diagnosed at about 6 years old. Mason is his name. He played basketball and did a lot of things until they determined in later years—I think he was age 14—that he had this horrific brain tumor. It is only because of ObamaCare that his life now will have the kind of coverage of insurance that we are all desirous of.

But I want to sort of finish my remarks. There is a lot I can say about Texas, and I may offer one point if I might, Mr. JEFFRIES, to make sure that I have that in the RECORD. We all are concerned about our individual States. And so for my friends back home, this is a State that has some 36 Members of Congress, two Senators, and I am on the floor fighting against this shutdown.

The reason that Texans need to be aware that it is important that you fight against this shutdown and put out a clean CR is that this will cost 582,829 Texas residents who took out a home mortgage or refinanced an existing mortgage last year \$36,000 over the life of a typical 30-year loan. And I am jumping to if we go into default over the next 2 days.

The Republican debt default will put at risk the retirement plans of 4.473 million Texans, and 300,000 vets would have a concern about their disability compensation for November 1; and 24,000 or 25,000 poor and disabled vets would be questionable about the pension they live on.

But I want to close with something that has disturbed me as we have watched the rhetoric. I have pages and pages. We all are emotional. We all have the talent of rhetoric. We all have, if you will, the affection for the use of words—hyperbole, metaphors, using examples, and making our point. Mr. Speaker, I respect that. I am not a thin-skinned person. I am as much engaged in the debate on this floor as many of my friends, but all of us should be sensitive to the words that suggest that we have other motives.

So I come to the floor today to raise issue with what is perceived in many communities of the different treatment of Barack Obama. You can read between the words why he is treated so differently and why he is cast about with such utterly ugly and demeaning suggestions. And in demeaning him, you are demeaning a whole body of other folks. I take issue with that.

And so let me see if maybe Larry Klayman of Freedom Watch will call us back and give us a response to his words uttered yesterday that I find totally out of order. Protected by the First Amendment, absolutely—I have no quarrel with that. But I believe it is important to put this in the RECORD as we talk about this government shutdown because if we are going to get where we need to go, we need to all realize that we have a greater cause—and that is America's cause.

So I finish on these words.

Apparently, he was moved yesterday in front of the Vietnam Veterans Me-

morial—which many in the Million Vets movement denounced yesterday, and he said:

We are ruled by a President that bows down to Allah.

I am already insulted because I believe in the freedom of religion. I respect the dignity of all religions.

He is not a President of we the people, says Mr. Klayman of Freedom Watch, but a President of his people.

I don't know who that is. All I know is that the President was elected to be President of all of the people of the United States of America.

He goes on to say:

We should wage a nonviolent revolution.

I have never been ashamed of the nonviolent civil rights movement. We didn't call it a revolution. We called it a movement to give dignity to people and move them from second-class citizenship.

But he says:

We should wage a nonviolent revolution. This President should get the Koran out of his hands.

This is denigrating a religion that I believe is absolutely appalling.

Get off his knees—

Is there some documentation about the President's private prayer allegiances or responsibilities or desires that this gentleman knows what he is talking about?

—and get out of town.

That is, I believe, one of the most appalling statements that we have heard charged against a President of the United States in a time of crisis, when the American people are looking for hope, looking for serious response.

I would hope that there will be Members of the Republican Conference that will come to the floor tomorrow and join in with the solution that may be offered as it is being discussed in the Senate; and I hope they will denounce these words, as I am denouncing them tonight. For we will never get a solution to move this Nation forward if we are to denounce religions that are respected and given the privilege of being worshipped by those who worship—by the First Amendment—and to try to denigrate a President by denigrating a religion and going in the circle of diminishing all of us.

I want to thank the gentleman for giving me this opportunity. I may ask for some more time if I am able to stay around, as we go forward, because there is a long list of what I think we are being deprived of.

But I do want to let everyone know that when I was home in the district for the short period I was, I know that those in Texas who are suffering are happy about Barack Obama. They want us to get it together right like we did with Medicare part D, which did not work when it was first put in place, but they are happy.

I would hope that, as I indicated these words on the floor, that we would take the words of Chaplain Barry Black and “stop sowing in the wind”

and stop, in essence, doing things that undermine our very leadership. Thank you, Chaplain Black, for giving us these words of inspiration. Maybe we will take notice. And when words are said that are ugly, inappropriate, and without any truth, I am looking for my friends tomorrow to come on the floor and denounce these ugly words that were said by this gentleman that have no bearing in truth and have the audacity to denigrate faiths that are, in essence, respected and show their love for a higher power.

We should all be grateful that the different faiths we grant in this Nation under the First Amendment of freedom of religion can pray to their God—pray to God—and ask for the blessings of God on this Nation.

With that, I thank the gentleman for his courtesies.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 9, 2013]

OBAMACARE SAVED MY FAMILY FROM FINANCIAL RUIN

(By Janine Urbaniak Reid)

House Speaker John Boehner and his tea party friends shut down the U.S. government because of people like me. I am the mother of an insurance hog, someone who could have blown through his lifetime limit of health coverage by the time he was 14. My son has managed to survive despite seemingly insurmountable challenges, and he wears his pre-existing condition like a Super Bowl ring.

Mason, now 16, was probably born with his brain tumor. We discovered it six years ago. Biopsies showed a slow-growing mass, which was the good news. The bad news was that the tumor could not be removed because it had grown around essential structures in his brain. Under the care of some of the country's finest specialists, Mason had frequent scans. There was little we could do between tests but hope for the best. Like other children his age, Mason played basketball, argued with his siblings and avoided cleaning his bedroom. He managed to undergo chemotherapy for eight months without getting too sick. He insisted on finding ways to laugh, saying things like: “I have brain cancer. What's your problem?” It was an uneasy peace—until the tumor ruptured in December 2010, three years after his initial diagnosis, and Mason suffered a massive cerebral hemorrhage.

Mason spent most of eighth grade in the hospital. In the six months he was hospitalized, he spent 65 days in the pediatric intensive care unit. He underwent four brain surgeries. Halfway through his hospitalization, the Affordable Care Act was passed, alleviating lifetime limits on coverage and saving us from the financial abyss. Mason moved to a rehabilitation hospital where he was retaught the most basic skills—sitting up, eating and standing. We faithfully paid the premiums on the employer-sponsored plan through which our family is covered, along with the rest of our bills, thanking God and whoever else would listen for our good fortune to have coverage.

The biggest fear for families such as mine is that we will lose our health insurance and be rendered uninsurable because one of us has been sick. The Affordable Care Act does away with dreaded clauses barring pre-existing conditions. It also enables us to keep Mason on our insurance until he is 26; then, he will be able to purchase his own coverage on an insurance exchange. At least, that was the plan until last Tuesday, when the government was shut down in protest of such excesses.

As far as the brain tumor goes, our family might have drawn the short straw. Maybe our story lacks a certain universal appeal. People might thinking to themselves, "I'm so sorry that happened to you, but odds are it won't happen to me." I hope it doesn't, really.

But having lived in hospitals with Mason for months, I have seen that bad things—accidents, freak illnesses—happen to smart, cautious and otherwise undeserving people. It's one thing we all have in common. We are fragile beings. So what is wrong with allowing us to purchase a financial safety net? What's so un-American about that?

If I could get John Boehner and Ted Cruz on a conference call, I would explain this to them. I would tell them that, while they were busy trying to derail the Affordable Care Act over the past two years, Mason has again learned to walk, talk, eat and shoot a three-point basket.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentlelady from the great State of Texas for her observations and certainly hope that all people of decency on both sides of the aisle will denounce the hateful words that we saw on display here in the Nation's Capital this weekend.

We are pleased to have been joined by the distinguished Representative from the great State of Virginia, Representative BOBBY SCOTT.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I thank the gentleman from New York and the gentleman from Nevada for organizing this Special Order, and the gentlelady from Ohio for her leadership in the Black Caucus, and the other Members who are participating tonight.

Mr. Speaker, our economy has been improving very slowly over the last few years, and we need to do everything we can to make sure that we create as many jobs as possible.

Thursday, the United States faces a crisis, and that is whether we will pay our debts or whether we will, for the first time in our history, default on our debts. The debate on the debt ceiling really isn't much of a debate because every credible economist has already concluded that failure to adjust the debt ceiling will cause serious adverse consequences to the domestic economy, and even the global economy. That conclusion really ought to end the debate.

For those who want a little more information, you only have to look back a couple of years. The Republicans made a credible threat on the debt ceiling, and the S&P, just based on the credible threat—although we raised it in time—downgraded the creditworthiness of the United States for the first time in history.

So we really don't know exactly what would happen. We know none of it is going to be good, but we would be looking at possible increases in interest rates, lost jobs, stock market collapse and people's pensions at stake, government checks like Social Security and veterans benefits, and doctors not being paid under Medicare. All are adverse consequences for failing to adjust the debt ceiling.

My Republican colleagues have threatened to use this crisis as an op-

portunity to gain legislative advantage to pass legislation that they can't pass through the normal process. Unfortunately for them, the Nation Magazine published their wish list. It starts, of course, with undermining ObamaCare, but then it goes on to entitlement reform, better known as cutting Social Security and Medicare; Keystone pipeline; corporate tax cuts; sabotage EPA clean air regulations; offshore drilling. It goes on and on. They published the list.

But the full faith and credit of the United States should not be a bargaining chip held hostage unless some legislative ransom is paid.

Suppose the Democrats played the same game and put on the table immigration reform, gay rights, a jobs bill, or gun safety, and we are going to shut down the government or mess with the debt ceiling unless we get our way on that legislation. How dysfunctional a government would we have then?

In the past, there have been debt ceilings; and people have referred to the fact that in the past, there have been negotiations over the debt ceiling. But those are different negotiations. Those are negotiations on the debt ceiling in the context of, Of course we are going to adjust the debt ceiling. And then you put things on the bill. So if you can get your amendment on the bill, you know you are in good shape because that bill is going to pass. You will get over the line.

It has never been in the context of, If I don't get my way, we will explode the economy—until 2 years ago when the Republicans pulled a stunt and the S&P downgraded our credit rating. About 45 times since the 1980s we have increased the debt ceiling. It has always been in the context of, Of course, the debt ceiling will be increased.

This isn't like a credit card where you increase your credit limit so that you can spend more. We have already spent it. We have passed the spending bills. We have already spent the money. The question is whether we are going to pay the bills; and if you are going to discuss fiscal responsibility, it ought to be at a time when you are deciding whether to spend the money, not after you spend it and then decide whether you are going to pay the bills that you have already incurred.

We are discussing this debt ceiling while the government is shut down. And shut down for what reason? It started off on ObamaCare. Many Republican Senators have already said that this wasn't going to happen, and it wasn't a good idea to shut down the government over ObamaCare. Apparently, they have pretty much given on that and some have said, Well, we have shut down the government; we have got to get something.

The problem with giving something for shutting down the government is that there is apparently a fundamental concept in psychology of positive reinforcement. If you reward somebody for doing something, they will probably do

it again. If they get a reward for shutting down the government, this will become part and parcel of the legislative process that if you can't get a bill passed, you will shut down the government until you get it passed.

Several Republican legislators have praised the fact that we passed some piecemeal bills to reopen government one little agency at a time. It looks to me like every morning they read the newspaper and find out the latest disaster caused by their shutdown and then some things like servicemen not getting death benefits, the World War II Memorial, cancer patients not being treated at the National Institutes of Health, Head Start.

Every morning, they read the tragic effects of their shutdown and then run to the House to address the disaster of the day and try to get some 30-second sound bite to cover up the fact all they are doing is cleaning up part of the mess that they already caused.

Passage of these little piecemeal bills only serves to elongate the shutdown. We need to reopen the government and put an end to all this; and while some of us are working hard to produce jobs, this shutdown is costing hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have criticized Democrats for not negotiating. I just want to remind everybody we are talking about the budget. The Democrats started with one number, the Republicans with another number. The Democrats didn't come halfway or two-thirds of the way. They just agreed to the Republican number on a short-term basis so we can continue to negotiate without shutting down the government.

So we need to reopen all of the government and stop losing jobs. Let's pay our debts, and then we can get to the real serious negotiations on the budget.

I thank the gentleman for yielding and look forward to reopening government, paying our bills, and then getting into the tough negotiations.

□ 2100

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Virginia for his observations and for reminding the American people that the President, the Senate majority, Democrats in the House of Representatives have always been prepared to sit down and attempt to find common ground as it relates to the challenges that we confront here in the country. We have been asking for a conference committee to be put into place so we can discuss the budget passed by the House and passed by the Senate and figure out how we can negotiate around those differences since March; but the House majority has refused to appoint Members to negotiate the budget differences.

But we are not going to be put into a position where essentially you say, Give us everything we want—the right-wing Republican agenda for this country rejected by the American people on

November 6, 2012. But notwithstanding that fact, give us everything we want or we are going to shut down the government or force a default that plunges this country and the world into a painful recession. We are not interested in negotiating on those terms because it is not in the best interest of the American people.

I am pleased that we have been joined by the distinguished Representative from the great State of California.

I yield to Representative BARBARA LEE.

Ms. LEE of California. First let me thank you both, Congressman JEFFRIES and Congressman HORSFORD, for your tremendous leadership, your vigilance, and your diligence. We appreciate your conducting these Special Orders to make sure that the American people know the truth about what is taking place here in Washington, D.C.

Also, I have to salute our chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, the gentlelady from Ohio, Congresswoman Marsha Fudge, for her leadership and ensuring that the entire Congressional Black Caucus continues to be the conscience of the Congress.

Here we are 14 days into the Tea Party Republican shutdown and 3 days away from the Tea Party Republican government default, which would be the first in American history. Since taking control of the House of Representatives 2 years ago, the Tea Party has governed by brinksmanship. First, they were unable to accomplish their goals of decimating the government through legislation, so they have resorted to the type of tactics that eventually led to the sequester and to the shutdown of the Federal Government.

Now, the last time that the Republicans refused to lift the debt ceiling and relied on brinksmanship to get their way, a supercommittee was formed as a way to reach compromise—which of course didn't work and led to the sequester, which has caused devastating, across-the-board cuts to programs that the American people rely on, including 57,000 slots which were cut from Head Start already, and services such as Meals on Wheels that our seniors depend on for a nutritious diet.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee and the Budget Committee, I have joined Democrats in demanding an end to sequester and fought to restore the cuts to these vital programs. Yet even though we disagree with the funding level that these reckless cuts enacted—the sequester was a horrific action that we took, unfortunately. It has wreaked havoc on the lives of so many people. Even though we oppose that, we have agreed to vote for this budget, to reopen the government, and to put people back to work, and to provide the desperate services that people need.

Then, of course, to add insult to injury, Republicans insisted on shutting down the government all because of an obsession with repealing and destroying the Affordable Care Act. Now, the

Affordable Care Act is the law of the land. It has been upheld by the Supreme Court, and Americans are finally enrolling in coverage that they have been waiting for for years just to gain access to affordable health care. In fact, in its first week, the Covered California exchange in my home State had nearly 1 million visits to its Web site; and Californians have begun filling out nearly 44,000 applications for coverage.

The only thing that the Tea Party Republicans have accomplished with this shutdown is the loss of nearly \$4 billion in economic activity and misery and pain for the American people. They continue to deny Federal workers, the National Park Service, lifesaving cancer research, pregnant women, mothers, young children, seniors and veterans who have risked their lives for the Nation; they have denied them a fully functioning government. It is a shame and disgrace.

In my own county, funds for the Women, Infant and Children nutrition program and funds for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, these funds will run out at the end of the month.

Now, the consequences of the default: Republicans have simply refused to listen to what the vast majority of Americans are saying, and now the Tea Party Republicans are willing to risk the Nation's credit rating and the world economy to achieve their goal. If the Tea Party refuses to raise the debt ceiling and forces a default on this Nation's debt—which, mind you, are bills that we have already agreed to pay—every American household will feel the impact. Retirement savings will be lost; mortgages will be harder to get.

The full faith and credit of the United States is nonnegotiable. We are not a deadbeat Nation and should pay our bills. It is time for the Tea Party Republicans to end the brinksmanship, open the government up, put people back to work, pay our bills, and let's begin to negotiate on a real budget that will ensure the American Dream for millions of Americans for whom this dream now, quite frankly, is turning into a nightmare.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Congresswoman LEE, thank you for continuing to be an unyielding advocate for the downtrodden, the disaffected, and the disenfranchised in such a tremendous way.

I now yield to a distinguished member of the freshman class, also joining us from the great State of Texas, my good friend, Representative MARK VEASEY.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the time to thank my friend from New York and the gentleman from Nevada for helping to put together this special hour on what is really important in this country. We know just how vital and vibrant we want our economy to be, and it is hard to do that if we are not taking care of our credit. I appreciate both of these gentlemen for taking this hour to talk about this.

I would also like to thank my colleague from Texas, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, who spoke so eloquently on so many different areas in government that would be affected if we were to have a shutdown and how the Affordable Care Act is helping Americans—helping working Americans do better.

Whether you are from Houston, where she lives, or the north Texas area where I am from, in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, people are concerned. People are starting to get very worried about the very dangerous prospect of approaching the legal debt limit since we are only 3 days away from default.

In 2011, the credit agency Standard & Poor's downgraded the U.S. credit rating for the first time in history. S&P said this back then:

The political brinksmanship of recent months highlights what we see as America's governance and policymaking becoming less stable, less effective, and less predictable than what we previously believed. The statutory debt ceiling and the threat of default have become political bargaining chips in the debate over fiscal policy.

Now, following that particular downgrade, it is estimated that job growth took a 28 percent nosedive. Can we afford a 28 percent nosedive right now? I think not.

This also cost Americans more than 200,000 jobs right when we are starting to do better. The economy is starting to be kicked into motion from what was a very bad period over the last several years. We can't afford 200,000 jobs right now. We have to do everything we can to get ourselves out of the situation that we are in right now.

Also important is that consumer confidence dropped to levels mirroring those during the Great Recession, which had a negative impact on economic activity. The GAO found that taxpayers paid \$1.3 billion in additional interest. Let me repeat that: the GAO found that hardworking taxpayers paid \$1.3 billion in additional interest costs because of the delayed 2011 debt limit increase. Is that what we want, the hardworking taxpayers of our country to have to pay additional taxes because we can't get our act together, because Republicans can't get their act together on the debt ceiling?

Two years after S&P's bleak assessment and the clear economic data, here we are again brought to the brink. We must be clear on what exactly the debt limit is and what it is not. Increasing the debt limit does not increase the Federal debt. It does not give a blank check to our government to spend all it wants. Increasing the debt limit will simply allow the Federal Government to pay bills that Congress has already accrued.

Some of the payments that the Federal Government must make are interest payments on Treasury bonds, Social Security and Medicare benefits, military Active Duty pay, retirement and VA benefits. If the Tea Party refuses to allow the government to honor these financial obligations that are so

dear to many Americans, to our family members, to people in our communities, then investors will likely lose faith in the government and demand higher interest rates for Treasury bonds. We cannot allow our country to become a deadbeat Nation that doesn't pay its bills.

Let's move beyond these silly, partisan games. We have the American economy at stake here. And more importantly, we have the economic livelihood of every American in our hand. The full faith and credit of the United States should not be up for negotiation. It is time for Congress to raise the debt limit—like they have in the past so many times before—and for Republicans to end their losing game of brinkmanship and realize that they are damaging American lives every day.

Let's do more for the hardworking taxpayers in our country that make our country great.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Texas for his observations and for his historical analysis, pointing out that raising the debt ceiling is something that has consistently occurred throughout the last century here in America.

I want to enter into the RECORD a White House correspondence that reads, in part, as follows:

This country now possesses the strongest credit in the world. The full consequences of a default—or even the serious prospect of default—by the United States are impossible to predict and awesome to contemplate. Denigration of the full faith and credit of the United States would have substantial effects on the domestic financial markets and on the value of the dollar in exchange markets. The Nation can ill afford to allow such a result.

Mr. Speaker, this letter is dated November 16, 1983, and those words were written by then-President Ronald Reagan to Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker: The Nation can ill afford to allow such a result.

Ronald Reagan raised the debt ceiling 18 times during his two terms; and yet our good friends on the other side of the aisle want to come here and lecture President Obama as if he is being irresponsible, when the paragon of conservative Presidential leadership recognized the necessity on 18 occasions—and as memorialized in this correspondence—of raising the debt ceiling.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

WASHINGTON, DC, NOVEMBER 16, 1983.

Hon. HOWARD H. BAKER, JR.,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR HOWARD: This letter is to ask for your help and support, and that of your colleagues, in the passage of an increase in the limit on the public debt.

As Secretary Regan has told you, the Treasury's cash balances have reached a dangerously low point. Henceforth, the Treasury Department cannot guarantee that the Federal Government will have sufficient cash on any one day to meet all of its mandated expenses, and thus the United States could be forced to default on its obligations for the first time in its history.

This country now possesses the strongest credit in the world. The full consequences of a default—or even the serious prospect of default—by the United States are impossible to predict and awesome to contemplate. Denigration of the full faith and credit of the United States would have substantial effects on the domestic financial markets and on the value of the dollar in exchange markets. The Nation can ill afford to allow such a result. The risks, the costs, the disruptions, and the incalculable damage lead me to but one conclusion: the Senate must pass this legislation before the Congress adjourns.

I want to thank you for your immediate attention to this urgent problem and for your assistance in passing an extension of the debt ceiling.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN.

We are pleased that we have been joined by the distinguished gentlelady from Columbus, Ohio, who has conducted herself with such intelligence and grace in her 10 months here in the United States Congress, and we are proud to call her a member of this freshman class.

I yield now to Representative JOYCE BEATTY.

Mrs. BEATTY. Thank you, Mr. JEFFRIES, and to Mr. HORSFORD.

It is an honor for me to stand here on this floor with you as a colleague in our freshman class. But first let me thank you for your leadership, and also to Congresswoman MARSHA FUDGE from my great State of Ohio, as president of the Congressional Black Caucus.

As I stand here tonight, I am reminded of the words of Martin Luther King when he said:

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in a time of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

□ 2115

Mr. Speaker, I rise today during this time of challenge and controversy to express my strong concern over Republicans' failure to immediately raise our country's debt limit. The failure to act is threatening an imminent default on our Nation's financial obligation.

Raising the debt limit does not grow our deficit. Instead, it allows the Treasury to pay for what this Congress has already spent.

What are the facts? Since 1917, the debt limit has been raised 103 times. In recent history, it has been raised 45 times. As you have heard my colleague state, 18 times during Ronald Reagan's Presidency.

In 273 years since our country's founding we have never defaulted on our financial obligation. Yes, never. But if Republicans refuse to increase the debt limit by October 17, the Secretary of the Treasury has indicated very clearly that we won't be able to pay our outstanding debts on time. Quite frankly, this is unthinkable.

The "full faith and credit" clause of the United States Constitution directs that the United States will pay all its debts in full and on time every time.

America's full faith and credit has been the basis for our global economic

superiority for at least 100 years. Like ordinary Americans, if the Federal Government does not pay its bills on time, then when it comes time to borrow in the future, the interest rates we pay will be much higher. If the debt limit is not raised, Americans will feel the impact immediately, both directly and indirectly.

Who loses? Payments owed to our soldiers and veterans for their services will be delayed. Nearly 4 million disabled veterans receive monthly payments in recognition of their sacrifice. If we default, they will not receive their benefits on November 1. In my home, the great State of Ohio, 1,183 veterans receive disability compensation. It would be unthinkable for us to fail to pay them, and the benefits that they have earned for their services.

Who loses? If the debt ceiling is not raised more than \$36 million, Social Security recipients will not receive their earned benefits. In Ohio, over 2 million residents rely on Social Security to make ends meet. A default in our obligations would force them to choose between paying their rent or buying groceries. It is not a choice that Congress should force on our constituents to make.

Americans will also see a sharp spike in interest rates offered on home mortgages, credit cards, car payments, and student loans. The spike will have an immediate, devastating negative impact on our Nation's housing recovery, which has been a driving force in recent economic growth.

If Americans default, the average homeowner will pay an extra \$100 a month in increased interest rates. This will cost families \$36,000 over the life of a typically 30-year home loan.

As the stock market reacts to the most significant defaults in modern history, you can expect steep drops in your IRAs and your 401Ks.

Just last week, the Secretary of the Treasury reported that if our Nation were to default on our debts, the consequences would be "catastrophic"—yes, catastrophic—"with many private sector analysts believing that it would lead to events of the magnitude of late 2008 or worse."

We are still recovering from the worst recession in 80 years. We simply cannot afford to go backward, to go to double-digit unemployment, declining housing values, the financial markets declining, and a climate of economic uncertainty for businesses.

Americans deserve swift action. I implore House Republican leadership to bring to the floor a bill which will raise the debt limit so the Treasury can continue to pay all of its bills on time.

And lastly, I turn to the other imminent crisis: reopening the Federal Government.

Throughout this hour, you have heard my colleagues talk about the choices that you force Americans to make when you try to piecemeal our funding. It is worth me repeating to say: it is like having a family and having parents having seven children, and

decide that you are only going to feed three of them and watch the other four children starve before your eyes.

We stand on this floor as Democrats and Republicans every day and we talk about how we care for this America, how we want to provide services, but yet we are making Americans make a choice between NIH funding for children who are cancer patients, who need to be in clinical trial, and we make a decision to pull the funding, Federal funding, in 11 States that they are losing their Head Start grants. The list goes on and on.

This is not the America I know, this is not the America I love. Americans deserve better.

Let's reopen the doors of government, and let's raise our debt ceiling.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentlelady from Ohio for her very eloquent remarks.

Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining on the Special Order?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 9 minutes remaining.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

We have also been joined by another distinguished Member of the freshman class, the always nattily dressed representative from the great State of New Jersey, my good friend, Congressman Donald Payne.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from New York and the gentleman from Nevada for having this Special Order tonight, and also our tireless and fearless leader, the Honorable MARCIA FUDGE, chairwoman of the CBC.

"Insane," "catastrophic," "chaotic," "a nuclear bomb"—these are just some of the words our top economists and business leaders have used to describe what will happen to our economy if Congress chooses not to pay our bills on time.

The last time we flirted with not paying our bills on time, the economy flew into a tailspin, the markets plummeted, consumer confidence took a nosedive, our credit rating was downgraded, and our economic recovery came to a screeching halt. That was when we only got close to a default. If we actually defaulted, the short- and long-term consequences would be unimaginable.

So, if this is the case, then how did we even get ourselves here again? The answer is simple. An extreme group of the Republican Party, the Tea Party, is so obsessed with defunding the Affordable Care Act that they are even willing to shut down the government and hold the full faith and credit of the United States hostage.

Now, what does that mean, the "full faith and credit?" Mr. Speaker, when I hear that, it makes me think about what this Nation has meant to the world, about what this Nation has done for its people—the full faith and credit of the United States. I wouldn't want that on my conscience, that I was part

of this body when it defaulted, because that is what you will be remembered for. You were here during the darkest time in this Nation's history.

It is irresponsible that a small group would hold the American economy hostage simply because they don't like one Presidential policy, or the man.

The Affordable Care Act is already the law. Even now that the government is closed because of the Republican shutdown, the law is going into effect as we speak.

So I urge my reasonable colleagues on the other side to listen to the American people, because the people in my district are still hurting from the economic recession. They don't need a manufactured crisis on top of it.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, let me now yield to the gentleman from the great State of Nevada, Representative STEVEN HORSFORD, my good friend from the silver State, my co-anchor on the CBC Special Order Hour of Power, to close us out for the evening.

Mr. HORSFORD. Let me thank my good friend. I am proud to co-anchor this Special Order hour each week with you, my good friend from the great State of New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), and to all of my colleagues who came out tonight to put a real face to the real issues that are affecting America this day. To our leader, the chairlady of the American Black Caucus, thank you for your steadfast leadership in making sure that all issues are addressed on this floor.

I listened to the other side of the aisle for more than an hour before coming to our Special Order. I tried to make sense of the arguments that they were making tonight. But do you know what? Their piecemeal approach to funding the government makes no sense.

This chart signifies just what a piecemeal approach to government looks like. This chart makes it look like the GOP has approached funding our government like a game of Pac-Man. Well, this isn't a game. There are real lives at stake. It is time for Speaker BOEHNER and the House Republicans to realize it is game over and to work with those of us on the Democratic side in the House and our leadership in the Senate and the President to reopen government.

Americans across the country are already hurting from this Republican-led government shutdown. In my district alone, 11,000 Nevadans have been furloughed, leaving families struggling to pay their bills on time while putting food on the table.

I recently returned from my district and had a town hall with constituents to hear the effects that this government shutdown and the impending debt ceiling would have on the constituents of my district.

One constituent, Fred Waggar, shared his story with me. He is a veteran who now works for the VA. He is

worried that on October 25 he will not get his paycheck as a medical services coordinator for the VA. Then on November 1, he may not get his check and the benefits that he is entitled to as a veteran.

Fred said he is living paycheck to paycheck, so what is he going to do come November 1 when the rent is due, when the utility bills come due, when it is time to put food on his table, because Republicans are now determined to hold the full faith and credit of the United States hostage because Speaker BOEHNER is too busy catering to a fringe of radicals in his caucus?

□ 2130

I also have received tweets from our #cbctalks from constituents in my district. Kevin Hooks, who is the president of the Las Vegas Urban League, says that with the impending debt ceiling not being lifted, if the Women, Infants, and Children program that the Urban League administers closes, 200 families per day will lose health services and 15 employees will be furloughed. He goes on to say that the child care subsidy would affect upwards of 225 children per day, and some 60 employees will be furloughed.

Shaundell Newsome with the Urban Chamber says that Nevada businesses are being impacted by the government shutdown. It is killing small businesses. Open it.

The fear is real.

And then I got a question from the Clark County Black Caucus asking—or saying that their members are nervous that they won't receive Social Security or unemployment checks on the first of the month; what should I tell them?

Well, I stand here, my colleagues and I, along with 196 House Democrats, in support of a clean debt ceiling increase that insures that the full faith and credit of the United States of America is protected and avoids a Republican default. Our constituents have already suffered enough from this shutdown. We need to be representing the people's interest, not punishing them. Refusing to raise the debt ceiling carries serious implications, as all of my colleagues have discussed tonight.

For an already fragile economy, if we allow the Republicans to default on our debt, middle class American families and the poor would be forced to pay higher interest rates for mortgages, auto loans, student loans, and credit cards. Veterans will be affected; disability benefits will not come on time. Is this any way to send a message to our veterans?

So we call on our colleagues tonight, you have left the building, but we are here and we will stay and work as long as it takes to ensure that our obligations are met, that the government is reopened, and that we meet our obligations to pay our bills.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, let's reopen the government, raise the debt ceiling, and get back to doing the business of the American people.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, brinksmanship makes for poor politics, and defaulting on America's debts will make for a poor national economy and a poor global image. It should not be understated how devastating defaulting on the debt ceiling would be for America's growing economy. A default as a result of political games would be even more embarrassing.

Most games have winners and losers, but if the political games being employed by the Republican party cause a default on America's financial obligations, everyone loses. To be clear, this is not a game. The consequences on the American economy, our country's global image, and the lives of all Americans will be very real.

The Republican government shutdown has illuminated the party's willingness to put politics before people. If the Republican political brinksmanship causes a default on America's obligations, it will demonstrate their willingness to torpedo a growing American economy. This brinksmanship must end and we must raise the debt ceiling and continue advancing policies that have and will continue to allow our economy to grow.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of illness.

Mr. FATTAH (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official foreign travel.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in district.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in district.

JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on October 10, 2013, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 91: Making continuing appropriations for death gratuities and related survivor benefits for survivors of deceased military service members of the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, October 15, 2013, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3291. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting a draft bill entitled, "To provide for the issuance of coins to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the National Park Service, and for other purposes"; to the Committee on Financial Services.

3292. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Cathay Pacific Airways Limited (Cathay Limited) of Hong Kong, pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

3293. A letter from the Delegated Authority of the Assistant Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting a report on for-profit institution's revenues from Title IV and non-Title IV sources as provided by the institution in its audited financial statements in the July 1, 2011, to the June 30, 2012 reporting period; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3294. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Regulatory Guide 2.4, Review of Experiments for Research Reactors received September 25, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3295. A letter from the Speaker, Parliament of Albania, transmitting a letter wishing the United States a Happy Independence Day from the Parliament of Albania; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3296. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; America's Cup Aerobic Box, San Francisco Bay, San Francisco, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0741] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 19, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3297. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Grain-Shipments and Grain-Shipments Assist Vessels, Columbia and Willamette Rivers [Docket Number: USCG-2013-0010] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 25, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3298. A letter from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting

the Board's final rule — Rules of Practice in Air Safety Proceedings [Docket No.: NTSB-GC-2011-0001] received September 20, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3299. A letter from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — VA Acquisition Regulation: Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned and Veteran-Owned Small Business Status Protests (RIN: 2900-AM92) received September 26, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

3300. A letter from the Acting Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting the annual report of the Administration's processing of continuing disability reviews for FY 2011; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII,

Mr. HUNTER (for himself and Mr. RUPERSBERGER) introduced a resolution (H. Res. 382) supporting the goals and ideals of Red Ribbon Week, October 23, 2013 through October 31, 2013; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 and resolutions of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 523: Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 685: Mr. LEWIS and Mr. HUNTER.

H.R. 1173: Mr. HOLT, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. DELAUNO, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 1695: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 1750: Mr. THORNBERRY.

H.R. 1803: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 1992: Mr. GALLEGOS.

H.R. 2101: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 2695: Mr. FOSTER and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 2720: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 2925: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.

H.R. 3040: Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 3111: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, and Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 3121: Mr. HOLDING.

H.R. 3154: Mr. MESSER and Mr. ADERHOLT.

H.R. 3169: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 3179: Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 3181: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 3211: Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. DUFFY, and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 3229: Ms. MOORE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 3279: Mr. BARTON, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. DUFFY, and Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 3284: Mr. DOGGETT.